

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Interviewee: Felicity Gelder (FG) | Interviewer: Tania Gardner (TG) |
| Date of Interview: 9 October 2012 | Ref: DG13-4-1-1-T |

Tania Gardner: This is an interview conducted by Tania Gardner in Kirkcudbright on the ninth of October with Felicity Gelder. Felicity, please can you tell me your name, age, and place of birth.

Felicity Gelder: Well if you want my full name it's Felicity Gordon Gelder, I'm now sixty-five, and I was born in Glasgow.

TG: Can you give me a kind of brief outline of your life, please.

FG: Well, I'm born in Glasgow because my mother isn't very well before I'm born and we come from Kirkcudbright and obviously I've lived almost all my life in Kirkcudbright. I was... I went to school in Kirkcudbright, I went on to university in Edinburgh, and following that I had a kind of breakdown, and I worked in Edinburgh in the bank until Ian and I got married, and then we decided... we were offered a house in Kirkcudbright, and we thought 'the time's come to come home' as it were, and that's where we live now. [1]

TG: Where was your family home in the High Street?

FG: Our family home was number... it began by being number 83 High Street; my granny owned 83 and 81, and we moved into 81 eventually.

TG: So, can you describe your house?

FG: Number 83 was... had three storeys, and my parents and I lived in the middle flat; my granny and my aunt slept in the attics but lived on the ground floor where the bathroom was, and my father's music room. The next door house had a sitting tenant and she moved on when I was about ten and my parents and I moved into number 81, which had to be completely refurbished since it hadn't been done since about 1920; and that's where we lived until I left to go to university.

TG: And did you have any garden area in...

FG: We had a small garden area at the back of both 83 and 81, they had a joint area, it had what used to be the byre for the cow, which was long gone before I was a wean; and a little square of grass which we used as a drying green, and two mini flower beds. [2]

TG: So where did you play?

FG: I played... I played, normally, in the street with all the other kids, occasionally we played up in the swing-park but mostly we played in the High Street, on the lawn down at the academy... enormous games of tig and kick the can which stretched

from our half of the town right down to what was McMurray's Garage, but mainly a lot on the street really because there wasn't an awful lot of traffic.

TG: And were there many children who actually lived in... nearby as neighbours? Or across the street?

FG: Not really... there was a couple down in the close across the street the Campbell children; obviously in the next close the Fergusons... oh, sorry, you don't want me [3] to list all these kids do you?

TG: No that's fine...

FG: There were few children, I would have said, not nearly as many as there are now; I don't know if it was because of the war or what it was, but we mostly played together.

TG: Aha... so, you actually lived with your extended family?

FG: Yes, it was one of those extended family things I think...

TG: Aha...

FG: I assumed that granny and auntie were quite helpful for being babies when I was a baby sitter, but... when they baby-sat me, but... my granddad, when I was four... and we just kept living there, it was just... I just thought everybody lived like that, but obviously they didn't.

TG: Now, did you have a connection with Gordon House Hotel?

FG: Yes, the great aunts, my great aunts – that's like my granny's sisters – had Gordon House, across the road would have been the bake-house, my great-grandfathers bake-house in the close, which... [4]

TG: Would it have been called...

FG: ...across from Gordon house; it was called the Bake-house Close, I don't know what it's called now; it must have been 109... 107, something like that; and in there still lived the relations, but two of the aunts did... had Gordon House, it was another great-aunt from along the street, and originally my granny, and another sister had a confectioners in St Mary's Street; so I think they all were... they were all doing things connected with baking and cooking, but I understand that Gordon House was a temperance hotel...

TG: Yes...

FG: ...and the people that stayed there would have been, I think... I presume commercial travellers, something like that... and teachers; I remember Mrs Cuthbertson who taught art at the academy stayed there...

TG: So, they stayed there almost all the time?

FG: They stayed there almost all the time, some of them; and it was where we went as a family to have Christmas dinner, and things like that; and they had a television before we did, and I used to go after school and watch children's television if it [5] wasn't interrupted by the cricket and whatever... and be given a scone with jam from the ladies in the kitchen... whatever... it was a very old-fashioned hotel, I think really, even then...

TG: Aha...

FG: The kitchen had, like, a range and a cooker... and what I always remember as a huge jar of pickled eggs...

[Both laugh]

FG: Why? I don't... and it had a garden and also, which with a kind of courtyard... I presume they had the stables... but the garden beyond that was all laid out in little beds and had some – which I was told were brought from Japan; I don't know if it was by the Hornells or not, or someone like that – but when I was there there was still some small plants that... my mum told me [?]

TG: And who looked after that part?

FG: My aunts did because... part of it was in vegetables and part was flowers for the house and hotel and a very nice summer house at the bottom of the garden where we used to play... full of spiders... [6]

[Both laugh]

FG: You have to understand I was the only, sort of, child in the family, and everyone else was much older, so I was, sort of, seen but not heard, and spent a lot of my time under the table, I understand, when I was wee...

[Both laugh]

TG: Did you ever actually help out in the hotel? Was it called a hotel, or a boarding house?

FG: No, it was called the hotel... it was called Gordon House Hotel; I don't actually know when they started it but I do know that one of the aunts died not long... just before I was born, and the other aunt and another relation of the family kept it going; I didn't help out but I was there on and off... my mother worked there when

she was a girl, and also another cousin worked there but I never actually worked... I probably just went and made a nuisance of myself...

TG: So it was very much a family concern actually...

FG: It was a family concern yes, cos eventually when my aunt Jean died she didn't leave a will, she said we could all fight about it, and another extended relation came down and took it over... but at that time the contents were then divided up into... for some reason my grandmothers – although it was temperance – my grannies [7] champagne glasses were there...

[Both laugh]

FG: ...and odds and ends and other things like that; I don't remember a lot of the people... I remember of them and I know them in photographs, but there were obviously some people who stayed there a lot, and other like Miss Cuthbertson, who were there virtually permanently, almost like a boarding house, but it was still a hotel...

TG: The bake-house... was that still functioning?

FG: The bake-house, no, it wasn't functioning by then... Jean and Irene who were at school with us...

TG: Yes...

FG: ...their parents were there with their granny... the bake-house was still there but not used, it was just a place where we played... chickens at the bottom of the garden and all sorts..

TG: Mm-hmm...So, can you... who else lived... were your neighbours? What did they do? Occupations? Can...

FG: Neighbours... well two doors – next to 81 – two doors down would be Miss [8] Hannah, who was the priest's housekeeper... across the road would be... well eventually it was Donald Rudd and his wife... and, whatsername... Muriel...

TG: Roberston.

FG: ...Robertson; and down the close there, at the bottom, was a wee house that used to belong to the Hamiltons but was then bought by my mother's great friend Jane Wallace... also down there were the Collinses from the fish shop; and... where am I now [Laughs]... the other side is the courthouse with the caretakers house at the back, and they always had a parrot... can I remember their names? No... but I used to play with their grandchildren who came – who were called Peacock – went to live in New Galloway... further along obviously is the chapel and the police houses... across the road was the Campbells... joiners workshop with all the... [9]

inter... well, not inter-married obviously, but three different families in that close... who else was there? The Dallases came when I was about ten, that's next to the...

TG: Tollbooth.

FG: ...tollbooth; along from there was Kate and the Model Lodging House, which was still as it was when I was a child but... I was almost given up I think, I only vaguely remember it, because they had two heads of Tam o' Shanter and someone else they used to stick on the wall there...

TG: A model lodging house?

FG: Model... well it was actually where the really poor went...

TG: Is that Kate Mulroy's house?

FG: Kate Mulroy's... yes, the long house along from that...

TG: Yes.

FG: She and Geordie... and I think... my mother once told me they used to lend people money and... Geordie Mulroy, that would be... would that be Kate's father?... used to lend people money at the very reasonable sum of a hundred per cent interest...

[Both laugh]

[10]

FG: So there were all sort of odd people across there, though were was never really any much trouble, it was... you just saw different people going in and out...

TG: Yes.

FG: But mostly the High Street was fairly quiet, I think...

TG: Yes... now, there were bells ringing in the High Street...

FG: There were bells ringing in the High Street, yes..

[Both laugh]

TG: What are you memories of the tollbooth when you were a child?

FG: Huge...

[Both laugh]

FG: As far... well, I never realised that the tollbooth bells were ingrained in my head until they were actually stopped from ringing at 11 o'clock at night, I hadn't realised that they rang all night, it was just there all my life... plus the 6 o'clock curfew, and the 8 o'clock curfew, and 7 o'clock on the first Thursday of every month they rang the bells for the council meeting; and we as children used to love to go and help ring these bells... they weren't rung as I understand it now 'properly', but they were pretty huge ropes and the bells were up on the top of the belfry, and I was lucky, or unlucky enough... I thought... I was really chuffed, cos I got left in charge of the bells for a week, with the key, and had to go up at 6 o'clock and ring them for five [11] minutes solidly, and the great thing for us kids was all to go on at the end to stop the bell ringing, we just all clambered on to the rope, hung on, and it stopped by sheer weight of numbers; we occasionally had visitors who loved to come and see things and we used to take them right up... there was a big, like, a wooden ladder-staircase up the tower which was completely worm-eaten and you could only go one person at a time very carefully, but it was... I always thought they was my bells...

[Both laugh]

TG: Of course...

FG: Of course...

TG: So, the building itself, was it used for anything at that point?

FG: The building itself was [???] at that point, although we knew as kids, we knew that Paul Jones had been there as a prisoner, and we used to play with the dooks on the Winter Knowe Loch top so you cannae play with them, and also play at jumping off the steps and see how high up you could get... dare yourself to do things... it was mostly a place to play, and we knew of the bells and we knew what curfew was, [12] and I've seen me explaining to tourists whom I thought were wonderful people what curfew meant then...

TG: So did tourists... then...

FG: Oh, tourists then, yes, I can't think there were an awful lot, but there used to be people who'd come up.. if they came at, like, 6 o'clock, because the door would be open at the top of the steps for us to ring, and they'd come to see what we were doing... and be incredibly interested [laughs]...

TG: Do you think they were here to paint at the summer...

FG: Well I know the summer, no, not the summer-school people who used to come to paint, but I don't... there were occasional people who just came and walked round, and you had to explain to them that High Street was a [???]... you know, had the two parts... the summer-school people seemed to know where they were coming to, I think, but... were just tourists I suppose...

TG: Yes, uh-hu... what other sounds do you remember in the street?

FG: What other sounds... well the siren used to be – I understand it was the all-clear siren for the war – it used to sit on top of the courthouse, which was next door... [13] they used that as a fire alarm, which called the people in... the fire brigade used to go from the road just across Fisher Street...

TG: Fisher Street...

FG: ...just across from the courthouse... was where the fire engine was kept, so if the siren went off the little kids used to rush along and see where it was going... it also went off at.. I'm thinking lunchtime on a Saturday, but that could be anything about 12, or whatever, cos we knew if we were playing away to come home on a Saturday... I don't really know why, I think it was probably being tested, cos it was always the same time on a Saturday... they set the siren off... apart from that... noises... hmmm...

TG: What about people who may have called at the door?

FG: Ah, people at the door... well I remember them using our... French teacher at the academy with a tale of my mother talking to the typical *onion-Johnny* who used [14] to come, who'd come from Brittany, and actually looked like what I know understand is a caricature of a Frenchman, because he had a bike, and a beret, and a string of onions... I think they came from Brittany, but my mother didn't actually speak French but she managed to get... have a conversation with this gentleman; we also had the wee man who came from Wigtownshire with jumpers and carpets in a van, whose name I've completely forgotten... I'm getting as bad as my mother... who used to bring samples of... "oh, mistress Pope can I come and show you this nice jumper, now... mistress this, mistress that", and he used to bring rugs and jumpers and cardigans and coats, and invariably my mother would have to buy some things, and I actually... I've still got a jumper [laughs]... acrylic, when it came in first...

[Both laugh]

FG: Apart from that... Jesse Burnside, was it? used to come... it was just a lady who lived in Kirkcudbright, who was very, very poor... had come of a good family and [15] apparently not married very well, and she had two kids, and my mum used to have her in for a cup of tea and give her something of my clothes...

TG: Ahh...

FG: Apart from that I can't... oh, the insurance man, obviously, but... and Percy with the vegetable van, eventually... used to come round the town, and occasionally... not the ice-cream man... we used to have a rag-and-bone man, but I was always very annoyed with my mum cos she never had anything to give him so I never got the balloon or whatever you got...

[Both laugh]

TG: The courthouse is such an imposing building, can you remember any activity there, at all?

FG: There must have been, but I only remember the couple who were the caretakers living in the little house beside it; I know that my grandfather worked there, but I don't remember... oh, I do... do I? I vaguely remember... I don't know whether it would only be on Armistice Day, because they used to line up there, but Mr [16] Watson I remember going in, in his black, flowing robes, so I presume... unless things went on when we were at school, I don't remember...

TG: Through the working day?

FG: Yes, through the working day, I think...

TG: Yes, uh-huh. So, where did you go to school?

FG: I went to school at the academy; I started in the primary at the academy, we were decanted for a year-and-a-half, something like that, into the Castledyke's new school while they built, or rebuilt, part of the academy, and then I went back to the academy...

TG: Did you take part in sport? Music? Drama? Any of these things, when you were perhaps in secondary school?

FG: Well, sports, yes, within the school; I was quite good at running but I never... I wasn't terribly good at team games... we were away quite a lot at weekends; music, well, I did quite a bit of music but I didn't realise that cos my father was a music teacher and as far as I was concerned playing the piano and singing was what [17] people did, and obviously, for family parties, we didn't have the telly or CDs or whatever, so it was actually... sit at the piano and play and sing; it was a great part of our lives and my parents lives... and also recorder, and my parents played with the Jeffs, the artists, in a recorder group... are we at school? [Laughs] Sorry...

TG: No, that's fine...

FG: Sport... no, I did what we all did, I suppose we walked a lot and we cycled... I think we had a great deal more freedom, cos I know that I was allowed to cycle, sort of, six mile radius, something like that, without my folks being bothered at all...

TG: You had a car didn't you?

FG: yes, we had a car... my dad got it, I think, when my mother was pregnant; he was very nervous and he'd been taught to drive by a woman friend of my mums... we had a car, and we used to go to Brighthouse in the car, although there used to be a bus [18]

went to Brighthouse for trips and things like that, but I think we were... I suppose it was quite a... an unusual thing to have a car, but yes, we certainly had a car...

TG: So, you used to go to London or Blackpool....

FG: Very daringly we used to drive to London; mum's friend in Kirkcudbright by that time had moved to London and we used to go down in October...

TG: My goodness

FG: [Laughs]

TG: So, did you use the train to go to...

FG: No, we didn't use the train; I used... we used the train... I was given a trip on the train as a treat to Castle Douglas cos I was going to the dentist... I hated the dentist, and we had no dentist to begin with in Kirkcudbright, so my dad used to have to take me in the train, cos I loved trains...

[Both laugh]

TG: So, did you use the bus at all?

FG: Never, I was never on the bus until I was about sixteen, or at school... we just think about...

TG: You had a car...

FG: We had a car.

TG: Yes, now you also said you weren't here often at weekends... [19]

FG: No, we had a car, we were, well... when I was about eleven my parents bought a caravan at Sandgreen; friends of theirs who were teachers already had a caravan and used to tour about and they said 'come to Sandgreen... try it out', and I'm afraid my folks loved it so much there we never toured... and it was where my father went... it was more of a refuge: Friday night was Sandgreen, the weekends were Sandgreen... so I suppose I missed out a bit on, well, sports and things weekendwise, but I was quite happy...

TG: Yes, aye... it must have been very nice to go away...

FG: Oh, it was lovely, it was great...

TG: Did your friends go with you? Or did you really just...

FG: It was really just us... we had different friends in different places, although the Carpenters and the Bowers were friendly, I knew them in Kirkcudbright as well but mostly it was Sandgreen people...

TG: Was it quite unusual for people to have holidays, as such? Although if you [20] were going every weekend, it wasn't exactly a holiday...

FG: Not... I don't think it was, cos I know that... well, I don't know whether... my parent's friends were mostly teachers, and we would... they would go places, like... the Bakers would go to the Lake District always, and I remember from the school magazine people going, occasionally people going abroad, or something like that; but it wasn't unusual, particularly in the October holidays for the teachers to go somewhere... I don't think so much in the summer because mostly there were things to do at home... catch up...

TG: Yes. What did you think about Kirkcudbright when you were a teenager? Perhaps if you were away it wouldn't matter so much?

FG: As a teenager, it wasn't too bad actually, we had a hop that we went... *hop* [laughs]... listen to me; well, we had the pictures to go to, and there was a dance down in the Castledykes... was it on a Saturday night? Which stopped at 10 o'clock dead, woe betide you should [?] after five past ten where I lived [laughs]... which [21] was where you met everybody, you danced with everybody, it was when the twist and everything was just coming in... it was *the* dance, *the* place to go, but I suppose, other than that we used to kind of hang out in the cafes occasionally, as in, sit with an orange juice for two hours on a Saturday until you got chased on [laughs]....

TG: How many cafes were there in town?

FG: Well, there was *Angeleni's* which is at the corner of where the station isn't [laughs]... *Ricky's* which is at the Harbour Square, and *Steel's* which is opposite – now Tesco – but used to be the *Picturehouse*, which my mother called a den of iniquity... but it was the only fish and chip shop [both laugh], and it had a juke box... I can't remember if *Ricky's* had a jukebox or not but he had one of those *Coca-Cola* machines where you put the bottle in and another one came out...

TG: Aha, yes...

FG: Simple things...

TG: So, we had three cafes, yes... [22]

FG: You used to hang out... well, you hung out in the cafes, you hung out in the street, you cycled off... did you ever hang out at the harbour?

FG: Not really... I remember when we were quite small – sort of 8 or 9 – there were the dares where you had to climb down the ladder in the sea-wall and touch the

mud with your foot, unfortunately it was beside the sewage outflow [both laugh] sorry... it was a really, really incredibly stupid game which we used to play when the tide was in, like... oh, there's a gull, I think its got one... and I'm not going to say what it was [both laugh]... but, not really down the harbour because we used to get chased on from the granary, although we used to go down and look at the... there used to be a big barometer and a temperature thing in a box... locked up in a wooden box, but you were allowed to look at it... I don't know where it's gone now... I don't know why it was there... of course it was a different place when the [23] tankers came in, before that it was much more quiet; I remember us all being lined up when the first tanker came in, and we were all standing... well the academy of Castledykes were on the lower part, and the Johnson's School were standing on the Moat Brae kierung... virtually all the time we were just standing there waiting for the boat [laughs]...

TG: It was some event...

FG: It was an event, it was... we really thought it was wonderful that Kirkcudbright had a tanker coming in...

TG: Uh-hu...

FG: You know, and the *Shell* depot along the road, along at the bank as well...

TG: Because the harbour must have been actually quite quiet before that...

FG: It was quiet... I don't remember much going on, I suppose there must have been fishermen still going out, and there was... well, there was salmon nets but that wouldnae be relevant, would it? There were odds and ends of boats but it wasn't really anywhere of great interest I don't think, to us kids... we played up on the Moat Brae sometimes cos the cannon were up there...

TG: Mm-hmm...

[24]

FG: But really not in the harbour very much, although there as the continuous dare as to how far you could walk on the bridge span without getting caught [both laugh]... boys used to run up... well, I only got halfway up [both laugh]... I got terrified in case I fell and came back down again; and I remember one time some boys did some kind of swimming, diving exhibition where they dived off the bridge... and nowadays I think you'd probably not be allowed to go due to the pollution in the water and the fact you might get stuck in the mud, but they were fine, and I think it was the first time we'd ever... I'd ever seen people actually diving from a height...

TG: Gosh...

FG: Cos we didn't have swimming pools or anything... so we'd learn to swim in the... on the *Dhoon* or somewhere...

TG: What about going shopping or for treats did you manage to buy all your necessities in the town?

FG: Going shopping... well for me, my aunt worked in the butchers down the street, so the butcher's boy used to deliver... there were a lot more deliveries... I used to go along to the [*cloosie*] shop which was opposite Gordon House... it was sort of groceries and whatever... and McClure's, which was the bakers; I used to go for that... milk was delivered, but I think my mum had accounts, well, you paid at the end of the month... I used to go with the book, I know, to the grocers and they just wrote down whatever you'd bought and you took it away with the stuff; we occasionally went to Dumfries, that was a big treat to go to Dumfries, have tea and a scone in *Ortons*... [25]

TG: Yes.

FG: And go to *Barbers* or *Binns*... *Binns* mostly...

TG: And was that for clothes and shoes, perhaps?

FG: Shoes? Well, I don't... well, lots of things, I know that we used to get blazers and things down in the *Lammerts* in the town... but when we went to Dumries it was something special; I think, most things you could get in *Gowans* in Castle Douglas, my folks used to go to shop quite a bit in Castle Douglas, cos there were more bigger shops in C.D., but I think you could have probably got most things in Kirkcudbright, cos Mrs Kelly, of course, had absolutely everything, from socks to ball-gowns just about... [26]

TG: Yes.

FG: And we had two shoe shops, if I remember correctly, plus the drapers *McClymonts*, and... I'm getting bad [laughs]... so now, up the road, Mrs... *Mrs Robert*?

TG: Rudd?

FG: Aye, it was Mrs Rudd... had a little shop that sold buttons and tape and material for sewing, and necessities for girls... plus *Babyland*, of course, was there with all the little children's things...

TG: Aha. Did you have to help your mum in the house with chores, at all? [27]

FG: Yes, I was supposed to tidy my bedroom, and because my aunt was working all the time, I actually earned pocket money by cleaning in my aunts I used to learn how to set the fire and do all the dishes and things so that she could go to work, and I was also... I had to walk the dog and get the papers in the mornings, so... and deliver across the road to Jean and my aunt and my mother; as far as jobs in the house were concerned, I don't think I was a terribly good at home-craft child... my mother was too good a baker, and she did preferred that I'd go and clean next door cos my aunt

was definitely not domesticated that way and I could do what I liked in there, really... but I always had to spend Saturday morning cleaning my bike and tidying my bedroom... Saturday afternoon was free time for everybody I think [laughs]...

TG: When you left school, secondary school, did most of you friends go on to uni? College? Or did they find jobs here... [28]

FG: Yes, a lot... our sixth-year, virtually everyone left to go to college or university... people who were staying here had mostly left school already, well, in fourth-year I think, to go to commercial or something like that, but fifth- and sixth-year we were all mostly going on to do nursing or go to university or teacher training or occasionally into the army or the air force, something like that...

TG: Were you quite happy to be moving on?

FG: Personally... well I found it a great culture shock I have to say; I was not... I was a year ahead of myself, apart from anything else... and I found it a great shock to suddenly go from school to university... I had no... we didn't have a gap-year or anything like that, and I suppose I had been, I don't know, perhaps sheltered by spending my time at Sandgreen, and just doing... and there was only one of me... [29] but I really want ready to go, although I didn't realise that then, and my parents thought I was ok, but... caught up eventually...

TG: Yes. So you came home... were you happy to come home? Were you ready to come home?

FG: [Exhales] I didn't come home immediately, I worked in Edinburgh... although I'd left university, I went back to Edinburgh and worked, and I was quite happy there for a bit, and then when Ian and I got married we knew that we weren't going to live in the city, as it were, and we got the opportunity of a house in Kirkcudbright, so we, most unusually, got a house and then got jobs... I got a transfer with the bank and Ian... we were doing up the house, Ian went into the plumbers one day and said "I don't suppose there's a chance of a job", and they said "yes", so he started off as a plumber and both of us ended up at the range out at Townhead, eventually... I was happy to come home, I think you appreciate Kirkcudbright more having been [30] away... I suppose if you'd stayed here all your days it would be really boring but I think you appreciate it having been to the city... its nice to come back...

TG: And you came back to High Street...

FG: I came back to High Street, yes [laughs]...

TG: Had it really changed terribly much?

FG: No [both laugh], I don't think it had changed very much... I think, probably, there was a lot more money about and the houses looked much smarter, obviously more cars and things, but I... we'd kept coming back, I hadn't actually... I was never away

for long periods, I used to come back on holiday always or come back for the weekends, something like that... I just came back to my roots I suppose... but no, I just slotted in again quite cheerfully and most of the people that I knew were still there; I think it had changed in the way there were not... when I was a child everybody – I'm not saying everybody knew everybody, but – they vaguely knew [31] connections, you approximately knew who people were, where they'd come from... whereas when you came back there were people that you just didn't know, which was odd... I mean a lot of them obviously were soldiers or soldier's wives, something like that... there were quite a lot of, well... being Kirkcudbright they'd be strangers if they lived across the bridge, wouldn't they? [Both laugh]

TG: Now, do you remember any characters from the town at all?

FG: Oh God... Pauly Campbell? Would be Andy's uncle, maybe? He used to lead the processions dressed up as all sorts of strange things... I think we said there were more characters, I'm not sure how many were fuelled by drink, but...

TG: Yes.

FG: There were people that – I don't know – we used to... there used to be a lady that came... was it Meg? She was a Gypsy lady that came round about once a [32] year we would know she was in the town presumably begging; and I know you asked me earlier about people at the door... I remember Gypsies used to come sometimes and ask you for money, but they'd always give you something... I know my mum bought a clothes peg one time, they were made out of... oh I suppose it would be – I don't know – hazel twigs or something split, and they had a wind of tin, like cut off a tin can, to hold them together... she had about half a dozen of those... she reckoned it was unlucky not to give the Gypsies something...

TG: Yes.

FG: Apart from that... characters... I don't... I suppose there were but I can't think off hand because to me, well... for me, a lot of them were friends of parents really, I mean, there were people who sang and obviously we've people who've got seriously drunk, but you just sort of... "oh, there's so-and-so", but I don't remember particular characters... the artists, of course, I think in a way we were spoiled in [33] Kirkcudbright because that was just what they did, you know, to the outside world they were the famous artists *this* or *that*... to us they were just people who painted, like the Butchers, well there was the Butchers, and... [???] I don't really remember but the others were just people that lived here and did art, as it were...

TG: Uh-hu.

FG: Its maybe a feeling in Kirkcudbright... I don't know [laughs]; I didn't realise they were famous people until I went away...

TG: Well, that's been really interesting, thank you very much indeed.. before we finish, is there anything else that you've remembered or thought about before coming that you wanted to talk about or...

FG: I can't think off hand... I'll go home and look at the paper that you gave me and if you would like I'll write you a tale on the questions that are in the paper, shall I?

TG: That would be good... [Both laugh]

FG: If I can think of anything else, I'll add it...

TG: Thank you very much indeed, thank you...

FG: Okay...