

Interviewee: Allison Laurie (AL)	Interviewer: Isabelle Gow (IG)
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IG: Allison, thanks for being interviewed. Can you tell me a little bit about yourself, where you were born and brought up?

AL: Yes, I was born in Creswell Maternity Hospital, in Dumfries, and I was brought up in Lochmaben.

IG: And your parents, did they come from Lochmaben?

AL: Well, ma dad, his parents were from Lockerbie and they moved to Lochmaben when ma dad was young and ma mum was from near Longtown.

IG: Not too far away though.

AL: No, no.

IG: Not too far away at all.

AL: No, not far.

School buildings 00m 54s.

IG: Ok. So did you got to school in Lochmaben?

AL: Ah did, yes, ah went to the old Lochmaben Primary School for two years and then ah went to the new one when that was built, that was in primary two, we moved there.

IG: How did you find the change, did you like the new school?

AL: Ah did like it, yea, from what ah can remember. Yea, it was modern, it was new, it was warmer, ah remember the old school having to go from building to building for PE and from the classroom to the dinner hall and ye'd to go outside whereas in the new school everything was in the one building, so ah think that was the biggest change.

IG: When ah was at the school we had outside toilets, was it still outside toilets in your day?

01m 44s.

AL: Yes, yes, ah do remember the outside toilets, yes, ah just remember them being really cold.

IL: Frozen over.

AL: Yea, and the tracing paper toilet roll (*laughter*).

IG: Exactly, so they hadn't changed that in twenty years.

AL: No (*laughter*).

IG: So it would be quite nice in the new school when you had inside toilets.

AL: That's right and underfloor heating in the gym hall.

IG: Underfloor heating.

AL: That was quite modern for the time and, yea, that's what ah remember the most about it.

IG: And how did the move take place, I mean how did-?

AG: Well, ah believe, in fact it was, I'm sure it was Miss Aldridge, the Deputy Head who retired a few years ago, and she said that now if a school is moving then they would have a week off, or something, to move everything but she said at that point what they done is they done it in a weekend and they asked for parents to help move everything. So I didn't know about any of that because I was only six at the time, or seven, but yes, it must have been quite an upheaval for the parents and the teachers.

School playground 02m 56s.

IL: What about the playground? Was that better do you think, in the new school?

AL: Probably, yea, ah've got good memories of the playground. It was different then from what it is now because ah think a bit was added on, even from when ah started at the primary school. So yea, ah just remember playing in a whole load of trees because there was, part of the playground there was a few trees and [?], yea, it was a good size of playground. Ah

remember in primary one, at the old school, chasing after somebody and falling over and skiffing ma knee and ah've still got the scar there now and so it seems like in the new playground there was less tarmac and maybe a wee bit more grass than at the old school.

03m 42s.

IG: I remember from the old school it tended to be, we talked about the top playground and the bottom playground. The bottom playground was mainly for boys' football.

AL: Right.

IG: Would that be the same?

AL: Ah can't remember that, no, ah remember the monkey bars an ah remember a wee sand area.

IG: The monkey bars had been there a long time then because I remember when they came in so that would be in the sixties (*laughter*). And the old dining hall, can you remember much about that?

AL: Yea, just, remember having to pray before, which ah don't remember doing at the new school and prayers before we had our lunch. And just school dinners, ah remember the dinners being warm, ah can't really remember what we ate and ah don't even remember if ah particularly liked it or not. But yes, certainly remember the hustle and bustle of the busy dinner hall and yes, it seemed massive at the time.

Computers 04m 48s.

IG: And do you think any more facilities in the new school? What sort of, computers, would you have computers then?

AL: Ah remember, ah think it was when we were in about primary six, that we got one computer for the whole school and it was put in the hall, in the main hall, and each class went to have a wee go on the computer and it was very basic, the programme was very basic, whereas now they've got computers in the nursery and they've got a computer suite and computers in every classroom, whereas back then it was one for the whole school and that was a big exciting thing to happen.

School subjects 05m 25s.

IG: Do you think there was other changes, ah mean, in subjects and even from your own kids' time? What changes have there been?

AL: Goodness, ah think there-?

05m 40s

IG: Certainly when I was at school it was much more, you had a history lesson, a geography lesson and we had craft, and knitting, knitting was popular when ah was at school. What about, was that still popular?

AL: Ah think there's probably less kinna gender separation now than there was. I remember in P7, the girls done sewing and the boys went to football and ah remember being quite angry about that and thinking we didn't have a choice and maybe I would like to have done football, whereas now I think it's definitely better that way. So ah suppose that's a big change.

IG: What about...sorry?

AL: I was just gonna say, Joe's, he's in P2, and he's started French, which ah think's fantastic, which we never done any languages until S1 at the Academy.

IG: Yes, that was the same with me.

AL: And so, and Molly has being doing French as well, from about P5, ah think, so yea.

IG: So, that's new.

AL: They're introducing modern languages earlier.

IG: What about use of, would you use the television? I mean we had television programmes and radio programmes we used to listen to, schools programmes. Was that something you remember?

AL: Yes, yep, ah remember getting the telly wheeled in and watching TV of educational programmes. Yea, ah remember that.

IG: Now of course it'll be on the computer.

AL: Ah would imagine so, yea, ah don't think there's much radio now (*laughter*).

Games 07m 20s.

IG: What about playground games?

AL: Yea, ah remember we used to just, aye, just the usual, chasing each other and skipping, hopscotch, ah don't think that's changed much now, ah think my children play those things as well.

07m 39s.

IG: They still do that?

AL: Yea, yea, I suppose skipping when they were younger, Molly used to.

IG: We used to play marbles.

AL: Right, no.

IG: No.

AL: Marbles, no.

IG: That's changed then, quite a bit, because that was a big thing when ah was at the school. And doing things like handstands against the wall and things like that we used to do.

AL: Yes, I think there's still a bit of gymnastics in the playground, was when ah was there as well, yea.

School teachers 08m 07s.

IG: Good. And what about the teachers, do you think they're maybe more sociable with their kids now?

AL: Not sure, ah think there's still a kinna respect for teachers ah would say, certainly at primary school level. Maybe they're less strict than they were, certainly there was no corporal punishment when I was at school but ma partner he can, he's fifty, he can remember getting the belt etc.

IG: Yes.

AL: But ah think it's better now because it seems to be more of a reward rather than, you know, more carrot and stick now than there used to be, yes.

Lochmaben 08m 55s.

IG: Anything else you want to add, maybe generally about Lochmaben? What kinna changes do you see?

AL: It's got a lot bigger, more houses, especially round the Vendace Drive, round there.

IG: Oh yes.

09m 06s.

AL: When ah first went round there after they built it, you know, ah could have been anywhere, it didn't feel like it was Lochmaben. But you soon get used to it and your friends move in there and it becomes part of the town, like everywhere else did when it was first built. So, yea, it's probably got bigger, busier, roads certainly got an awful lot busier, the main road's very busy.

Shops 09 42s.

Ah suppose other changes, businesses, the Barony Foods coming in, the shooting supply shop.

IG: And yet some of the old shops will have gone.

AL: Yes, uhuh, yea, even recently, Sandra's Bazaar.

IG: Yes.

AL: That's a shop that everybody knew and it's gone recently and shops that ma dad knew when he was young that I barely knew, Paul's shoe-shop that was a favourite wasn't it, it was a well-known shop? Ah remember that when ah was wee, going to get plimsolls for school at Paul's shoe-shop and the smell of it, ah still remember the smell.

IG: Very good, thank you very much.

AL: You're very welcome. Brampton, that's where ma mum was born.

IG: Oh yes. Just over the border.

IG: That's good, thank you.

End of interview.