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| Interviewee(s): Shirley Swinton (SS) & Jane Whinnett (JW) | Interviewer(s): Janis Macdonald (JM) |
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| REGION | East Lothian |
| COUNTY | Haddingtonshire |
| TOWN/VILLAGE | Haddington |

Running time: 00.00

JM: This is Janis Macdonald, we're talking at [REDACTED] and I'm with Jane Whinnett and Shirley Swinton. Would you like to introduce yourself, please?

JW: Yes, I'm Jane Whinnett, my maiden name was Mercer, I'm fifty-nine, almost sixty, not quite as old as Shirley [*laughter*], and we knew each other because we were in the same class at school. So, I grew up in Haddington, I've lived in the same house in Haddington almost all of my life. My father was an art teacher, at Preston Lodge High School, and my mum was a secretary in various businesses in Haddington. I've got one sister, who's younger than me, four years younger than me, and I went to Haddington Public School when I was five, just before I was five, in fact, because I was part of the Christmas intake and my grandparents all lived in Tranent. Both my parents lived in Tranent before they got married and going to visit my grandparents at the weekend was something that we did every weekend. And my father went to see his mother every day for lunch, even although he was teaching in a secondary school, and my mum went two or three times a week to see my grandparents as well.

JM: You're a really close family.

JW: Yea. We, my mum and dad had very little money when they got married, they took a loan from both of their parents, in order to buy this house that they bought an it was a bit of a ramshackle house an Ah think they lived in about two rooms when they first got it and then gradually got, you know, more and more furniture

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JW: donated by different relations and most of which I've still got and, yea, my dad had a motorbike when we were little. He used to put me in his game bag on the back of the motorbike [*laughter*] and then we got a motorbike and sidecar, and we would go in with, we had a dog, we had a Labrador dog, and the dog went in too, and then eventually got a motorbike with a double sidecar, when ma mum was pregnant with ma sister, and, when ma sister was born, we went to look at a new car. And we looked at a bubble car but there wasn't enough room in the back for the carrycot, so we ended up with a three-wheeler van, which we had for several years. It had no seats in the back, ma sister an I sat on top o the wheel hubs [*laughter*] an we travelled...

JM: No child seats.

JW: ...travelled all over the countryside in a three wheeler van, yea, all the way up to Ullapool for our holidays.

SS: My goodness.

JM: Fabulous.

JW: Yes [*laughter*]. So, that was me.

JM: Wow.

SS: Heavens. Well, my name's Shirley Swinton, my maiden name is Cowe, C O W E, because there is another family without the E so just to clarify. Like Jane, I am fifty-nine, rapidly approaching sixty. I was born in Haddington, at the Vert Memorial Hospital, and I grew up in Haddington. Jane, were you born in the Vert or-?

JW: Ah was born in the Simpsons...

SS: Oh!

JM: ...ma mum was in for about three months before...

SS: Oh gosh.

JM: ...Ah was born because Ah had, she had high blood pressure.

SS: Oh, no. Ah, right.

JM: So, no.

SS: So, yea, so the Vert Memorial Hospital. So Ah have an older brother, called Robert, and for most of my sort of young life

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SS: we lived in Caponflat Crescent, which was a council house, built in the 1950s. It was a, we loved that house because we, I vaguely recollect we stayed with my Nanna and my Gramp, in Sidegate, along the road from Jane and then we moved to a flat but getting a house was incredible, it seemed huge and a garden. It was fantastic. Oh, gosh, lots of recollections about parents and what they did and where they came from, remember visiting my granny and grandad in Ailshinford, or Athelstaneford. Just great times, remember they had ducks in their garden and things like that. And I know Jane, obviously, from schooldays, which Ah think we're going to talk about.

JW: I did know your father, of course [*laughter*].

SS: Would you like to tell that story, Jane [*laughter*]?

JW: Your father was the driving test instructor, no...

SS: Examiner.

JW: ...Examiner, yes. So, I failed my test at the age of eighteen, with Shirley's father, when I almost emerged onto the A1 and Shirley's father had to haul on the handbrake.

JM: Oh gosh! Was that when it was the really bad junction up at the top of Aberlady Road?

JW: Yes, absolutely.

JM: Yes, so it's coming out onto the main road.

JW: And I had to turn right, which you know is pretty scary.

SS: Oh, my word.

JM: He must have confidence in you up till that point though, to ask you to do that turn.

JW: Well, Ah don't know *[laughs]*.

SS: Well, Jane if you think it was bad sitting your driving test with ma dad you should have had driving instruction from him.

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SS: I remember doing a similar thing to you in Longniddry, we came out from under the railway bridge? Or, sorry, I came out because I was driving and I didn't stop.

JW: Oh right.

SS: SO, yes, similar experience. And after that my dad paid for me to have driving lessons with somebody else.

JW: Well, do you know what? So did my dad because my dad decided I wasn't going to get to drive his car. By this time he had a four wheel drive car, it was quite, well a four wheel motor car and it was quite new, so he bought an old wreck and it was a little Hillman, which was fantastic and he took me out driving and Ah turned round to look at him and Ah've never seen his look so scared in his life, he was completely drained off colour, he had one hand hovering above the handbrake and one hand on the door. Just like, that was the end of that, no more lessons *[laughter]*.

SS: I can remember years later my dad loved transport, cars but he was in the Army and he had been in the, what's the fifteenth, six or-. Ah can't remember, he was in the Lancers which was a transport corps and that's what he was interested in, was just transport. And most of the jobs that he had were to do with transport. Anyway, when I was teaching at Pencaitland, I had Primary 7 and we had to take the children to Hillend...

JM: Oh yes.

SS: ...in groups for skiing lessons and therefor the teacher had to be able to drive the minibus. So, Ah had had experience of driving vans and things like that but Ah was a bit, you know, lacking in confidence. Ah said to ma dad, did he know anybody with a minibus and would he take me out, just to sort of drive around and, you know, get a bit confidence and he said 'Yep, Ah'll just, Ah'll look into it, yep. Leave it with me.'

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So, a few nights later, he phoned me, he said he knows a bus driver and he can get a bus *[laughter]*. An I assumed he meant a minibus, but no, he did mean a bus *[laughter]*.

JW: Single or double? *[laughter]*.

SS: Just a single decker, so 'Ah don't need to be able to drive this.' But 'No, no, no, if you can drive this you can drive anything.' So, and we didn't even go onto the A1 with it, we drove around all these little roads in East Lothian. I was absolutely sweating and terrified an ma dad was in the bus and his pal was in the bus. *[Laughter]* So, yea, that was fun. Anyway, the lengths we go to, so yes.

JM: Gosh, what good memories.

SS: Ah that is, well some things stick in your mind and that does.

JM: Shall we think, because you've both been in the same class, can we think about the early intake scenario.

JW: Yes.

JM: Because, of course, with you being February birthdays you had extra school time. Do you have any knowledge of the early intake?

JW: Yes, you started really, well, there was, there were two intakes in a year, Ah think, here. Ah think in some places they actually had three intakes because in Tranent my cousin started in, after Easter which actually after me, even although she was older than me.

JM: Wow.

JW: So, children that were born up to December, Ah think, could go to school, possibly before, and then after, well certainly I knew some people-.

SS: Did we start school in the January?

JW: Yes, we started in January and we weren't quite five because we would have been in the February.

SS: Yes, uhuh, yea, yea.

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JW: And we had a year and a half in primary one with the same teacher. Which was a great start to school, Ah think.

SS: Absolutely.

JW: You know, an for me, I mean, I'd never been to nursery, I don't thi-.

SS: Neither had I.

JW: The vast majority of children wouldn't have been...

SS: No.

JW: ...tae nursery and Ah had very limited contact with other children, really, apart from my family, my cousins, because there weren't that many children that stayed where, round about where I stayed, you know, so-. Later on Ah had a friend who stayed up round the corner, but, you know, when Ah was little and before Ah went to school and consequently, Ah think probably, for the first year and a half Ah had every possible illness that you could have. Plus, at that time, we had no central heating in our house...

SS: Yea, that's right.

JW: ...you know, it was coal fires, and it was really freezing, there would be ice on the inside of the windows, regularly.

SS: I remember, I got, the reason I remember it was January because Ah got a school bag for ma Christmas.

JW: Yes, yes.

SS: I was just so excited.

JW: Yes, yes.

SS: It was a leather schoolbag out of Mains...

JW: Yea.

SS: ... and it was chestnut brown...

JW: Yea.

SS: ...I used to pretend it was a horse.

JW: Yea, an Ah can remember ma mum coming in, having been up the street, and saying, you know, I've met somebody else who's starting school and her name's Jane too.' And Ah remember my dad, you know, opening the satchel and saying 'Now, Ah', gonna write your name on it here.' And, of course, Ah think Ah mustn't have been able to write my name, so he says 'Ah'm gonna draw a big star at the corner so that you know that that one's yours.'

SS: Oh, wow.

JW: So, Ah've still got that bag, of course.

SS: Of course. Oh, my word. Oh, that's fantastic.

JJ: Yea.

JM: But see when you were saying about not having any contact with other children

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JM: up until starting school, so what did you do when children nowadays would go to nursery?

JW: I was at home with my mum.

JM: So, how would you spend your day? because just-.

JW: Ah played a lot, on my own, Ah think.

JM: Yes?

SS: Yea.

JM: Yea, I had a lot of dolls and-.

JM: No playgroup or-.

JW: No, nothing.

SS: No.

JW: Nothing, didn't go anywhere.

JM: What sort of things did you do?

SS: Ah can remember playing, ah can remember ma mum being around in the house and ah can remember watching Watch With Mother.

JW: We didn't have a telly [*laughs*].

SS: Ah well, we had a telly, it was a sort... an Ah think it was Watch with Mother, you know, Andy Pandy and the Woodentops...

JW: Yea.

SS: ...and Bill and Ben and then she would insist that Ah had a nap, Ah can remember that.

JW: Oh right.

SS: And so [?].

JW: I used to go visiting, there were two ladies lived across the road from us, Miss Kelly an Miss something else. Anyway, and single maidens in two different flats in what's now the accountant's house an I used to go and visit them. You know, so, I've been a visitor.

JW: Uhuh.

JM: Just on your own? Age four?

JW: Uhuh.

JM: Oh right.

JW: Yea, and we played out, Ah played out in the street, well it wasn't a street, of course, mine's a, it's a kinna courtyard. Actually, that's not strictly true, because that was only built when Ah was four. But I remember being out there playing on the cobbles in St Anne's Place and seeing the workmen building the council houses, you know, around there. And the guy, the foreman there, was called Mr Fairgrieve and I used to speak to Mr Fairgrieve and go in with Mr Fairgrieve to see what was going on [*laughs*].

JM: My goodness.

JW: And Mr Fairgrieve would tell the men not to swear when Ah was there [*laughter*].

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SS: Aw. Oh gosh.

JW: And the Moncrieffs must have had something to do with that building too, because Ah once spoke to Jimmy Moncrieff, you know, senior, and he talked about actually selecting the paving slabs that are underneath the arch.

SS: Uhuh.

JW: If ye go through the arch and look back you can see there's a goat implanted in the wall, I'm sure that it must have been the Moncrieff brothers who had something, you know, to do with that building.

SS: Oh right.

JW: And I mean, it was beautifully done, that, in, you know, that courtyard. It was in keeping with the age of the buildings. When Ah think back before that Ah can actually remember buses passing the window, and cars, cause they used to go round because there was an island an they used to go, the buses used to go round the island and come back onto the High Street.

JM: Oh really.

JW: So, they went past my window when I was really little.

SS: Great manoeuvrability.

JW: Ah know.

JM: Did you play out? Were there lots of children round about?

SS: Ah think, later on, Ah think, Ah cannot remember children before Ah went to school but as Ah went to school and grew up there was people like Sheena Wallace, stayed across the road...

JW: Of course, yes.

SS: ...and Graham Allan, round the corner and Lorna Hepburn.

JW: Yes.

JM: So, even although they were there you didn't have any contact with them until you actually started school?

SS: I don't know if they were there.

JM: All right.

SS: Because, Ah think, I think I can remember Sheena moving into that house...

JM: Right.

SS: ...so it wasn't before school and Ah really don't know about Graham, Ah don't know.

JW: Yea, so, of course, starting school was a tremendous shock. I mean I do remember that; I remember screaming the place down because Ah had just completely shocked-.

JM: Do you not remember that, Shirley?

SS: Ah don't remember, Jane, Ah remember, Ah remember...

JW: Ah was absolutely distraught

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JW: and they had to get a couple of other folk to come and hold me down while my poor mother went away [laughs].

SS: It's funny how I can't remember you doing that Jane, but Ah can remember Alma doing that and she ran out the classroom an Ah can remember sitting on ma seat with-.

JW: She's not in the picture.

SS: She's not.

JW: No, she must have been off that day.

SS: Uhuh.

JW: That's Primary-.

SS: Because she started, because Ah remember...

JW: Yea, we did.

SS: ...she just ran out the classroom cause all the mums were there.

JW: Yes.

SS: Ah can't remember any dads...

JW: Yes.

SS: ...but all the mums were there, and they took us right into the classroom and basically...

JW: Left. [?].

SS: ...uhuh, left. And Alma ran out an I was sitting on ma schoolbag thinkin, you know, because Ah was so excited to be here, Ah couldn't understand what was wrong. An it was just a bit of a melee, Ah think.

JW: Mm, yea. It must have been horrendous because there was a lot of children in that class.

SS: Mm.

JW: There were more than thirty-three.

SS: Yep, an we hadn't even seen the cl-, you know, it's not like now where...

JW: Ah don't remember.

SS: ...you know, you get a wee visit and this'll be your teacher.

JW: No.

SS: And this'll be your classroom...

JW: No.

SS: ...an have a wee play outside

JW: No.

SS: Nothing. this is it: school. Get on with it.

JW: Yea, yea, that's right.

JM: Can you remember anything about the layout and the décor or the wall displays and things.

JW: Oh yea, yea.

JM: What can you, and the desks?

JW: We had little individual desks, Ah think.

SS: They had little chairs, did they? An little...

JW: They had little chairs, uhuh.

SS: ...and little desks. Yes, yes.

JW: Uhuh, separate, wood, little wooden chairs, Yep.

SS: An ah remember the blackboard an the teacher's desk.

JW: Wasn't there blackboards all the way round the room at the low level, as well? Ah seem to remember there being...

SS: Was that not across in the other, in the, I suppose because, you know, Haddington Public School, was that not the Infant School.

JW: That's the new Infant School, we know now.

SS: But the Public School, Ah can remember, they had blackboards round the room.

JW: At low level? Ah don't, but Ah mean, yea. And then-?

JM: Do you mean at the Annexe?

JW: Yea, in that modern part.

SS: What became known as the Annexe, yea.

JW: The modern part. And we were at the back...

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SS: Yes.

JW: ...you now, the back, and the cloakrooms were, you now, you came in the door and the cloakrooms were there and you hung up your stuff or whatever. And then the classroom that you were in, Ah think, was probably next door to us.

JM: We were in Class 1/2 where you came in the front door and there was the classroom with the big windows that face the playground...

SS: Mm.

JM: ...and then there was the corridor turned and there were two classrooms looked out onto a back playground.

JW: Yes, we were in one of those and you were the one-.

JM: We were in the right-hand side one.

JW: And we were in the left.

SS: Yes, and we were in the left.

JW: Yes, that's right. And was...

JM: The headmistress' office was just on the right.

SS: Miss Petrie.

JM: That's right. Was there was door out from that to the playground.

SS: Yes.

JW: It's really, and Ah can remember some of the staff, I mean we had things like a house...

SS: Ah can remember the house.

JM: ...you know.

JM: Can you describe the house?

JW: Well, it was, it was partitioned...

JM: It was wooden.

JW: ...it was screened...

JM: Yes.

JW: ...and it had a window.

SS: And it had a window, Yea.

JW: And, in fact, did it not also have a bit that had almost like a little counter in it.

SS: A little ledge.

JW: Uhuh, so that you could, actually, you could have used it to play shops, couldn't you?

SS: Yep, I remember that.

JW: And I remember painting, just because Ah was into painting. Ah remember. An Ah remember having Plasticine?

SS: Yes.

JW: Yep.

SS: And do you remember, at times, they used to bring like chalk boards, like individual chalk boards that were about the size of the desktop and they were given out and we just used to chalk on them.

JW: Yea, yea, yea.

SS: But everybody together.

JW: Yes, that's right, that's right.

JM: So, what things did you follow from a blackboard?

JW: I don't remember much.

JM: Can you remember the teacher using the blackboard?

JW: To show us how to write, Ah think, possibly.

SS: Ah think later on.

JW: Later on, yea.

SS: Not initially.

JW: No. And I remember, I mean I remember the wall displays too because there was things, I think our reading book was a rather unusual,

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JW: I think it was one of these schemes that had been developed that were only there for a very short time an Ah think we had characters called Ann and Tom in it, rather than some of the other ones that were...

SS: Uhuh.

JW: ...well, ma sister had Peter and Jane and then you had Janet and John and then there was, but Ah think ours had a, Ah think...

JW: Ann rings a bell.

JW: ...and then, so we were introduced to the figures, like, you know, pictures of the figures. And then, then we got a reading book.

JM: Do you remember doing reading...

JW: Round the-?

JM: ...in small groups? Or was it a bigger group?

JW: Big? Small? Oh, I can't remember.

SS: I think, were we not called out, I remember being called out to the table.

JW: The table, yea.

SS: And we had to stand beside the teacher...

JW: Yes.

SS: ...and read and then you got a star.

JW: Yes.

SS: You had a card inside...

JW: Yes, you had a card, a marker, yes.

SS: ...the book.

JW: Yes, which pages you had to read.

SS: Uhuh.

JW: It was about two pages that made no sense whatsoever, when I think about it.

SS: I know and you either got a star or not.

JW: And there were different colours.

SS: Yes, yes.

JW: You could get a silver one...

SS: Yes.

JW: ...or a gold one...

SS: Uhuh.

JW: ...or just...

SS: or just a red one or...

JW: ...any other colour.

JM: So, did the star reflect how well you'd read?

JW: Presumably.

JM: Or just what the teacher had?

JW: Don't know.

SS: Ah think to get a gold star, Ah think that was, maybe we just made it up and we felt because it was gold, but Ah can remember the other colours.

JW: Yea. Yes.

JM: And what about staring number work? What can you remember about number work?

JW: Oh well we had all rods, [?] rods. I remember all of those.

SS: Ah can remember that and Ah can remember where I sat, opposite, there was a line of numbers with objects next to them.

JW: Yes.

SS: Like one-.

JW: Yes, that's right, yes.

SS: Ah remember thinking there were five fish, things like that.

JW: Yes, that's right.

SS: Ah remember that.

JW: Yes, yes.

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JW: And Ah think there was an alphabet frieze like that as well, somewhere. Ah seem to remember that, you know, where you had a letter of the alphabet an a thing.

SS: Yea. Ah suppose, Ah wonder, Ah suppose it's relevant to where you sat in the classroom what you saw because Ah remember that was opposite me. An the classroom desks were like a horseshoe?

JW: Yes, I remember that being like that. So, when you come in the door, where did you sit?

SS: I sat to the right.

JW: So, did I.

SS: Oh, right [*laughter*].

JW: Don't remember seeing you there.

SS: I know, I was totally unaware, totally unaware of who was around me.

JM: That's really funny.

JW: Yea.

JM: That you could, that you could actually be in the same class for so long and yet...

JW: We probably don't really remember.

JM: ...and yet initially you can't remember.

JW: I don't really remember that much about, well I remember when children were naughty...

SS: Uhuh.

JW: ...you know, they were-.

JM: And what sort of punishment might there be if somebody was naughty?

JW: They got smacked.

JM: Smacked on the bottom or the legs? Or-?

JW: Well Ah don't know.

SS: Ah can't remember, Ah can't remember...

JM: Because people wouldn't be belted that young.

SS: ...somebody getting a smack. But Ah can remember getting into trouble one day. Ah wasn't smacked.

JW: No. ok.

SS: Yea, cause do you remember the teacher used to leave the room...

JW: Uhuh.

SS: ...and leave the class unsupervised? And one day I remember this so well because I had a kilt on and I had a jumper that was sort of yellow and it had sort of Fair Isle pattern on it...

JW: Oh yea.

SS: ...and people said it looked like a bee so when the teacher went out the room, wherever she was going...

JW: Uhuh.

SS: ...there was no, not even a nominal child 'You're in charge' it was just 'I'm leaving'. And so, people started calling me a bee, so I got out ma seat [*laughter*] and started buzzing and chasing people [*laughter*].

JW: Ah don't remember that at all.

SS: An it was like, it must have been uproar when she came back in,...

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SS: ...all this sort of bzzzz [*laughter*]. Anyway, I got a row, yea.

JW: Oh dear.

JM: I can remember a boy getting his mouth washed out with soap for using bad language.

SS: Oh.

JW: Goodness.

SS: My word.

JM: In the sink in the corner of the classroom.

SS: So, who was your teacher in Primary 1?

JM: Miss Robertson. So, you had Miss Petrie?

JW: No, we had Miss Montgomery.

JM: Oh, Miss Montgomery.

SS: Miss Montgomery, yea.

JW: Ma mum had Miss Robertson as her teacher when she was at school in Pencaitland.

SS: Oh, my word.

JW: Yea.

SS: I can't remember her.

JW: What was Ah gonna say? The other thing was, when you look back at the children who were in our class...

SS: Mm.

JW: ...there were some children who came from really quite poverty, you know, backgrounds.

SS: Absolutely.

JW: You know, and Ah don't know if you were particularly aware of that when you were little but as you got older, Ah think you became more aware of that.

SS: Yea, I think at the actual time you were just totally unaware of it but reflecting back on it, definitely, yea, definitely.

JW: And there were children, because we both went into teaching afterwards, when you look back at it, there were obviously children that had, you know, learning difficulties of different kinds that really weren't recognised.

JM: And how do you feel that was dealt with?

JW: There was a lot of class teaching, I think. Well, initially. We were quite lucky Ah think, in some respects, because we were like the generation of, like, after the War, and everybody wanted, like, the best for us and people, as we got older, people started to have a little bit more money, you know and people became more aspirational, Ah think, for their, for their children. But em, why did I start to say that?

SS: About class teaching and-.

JM: Learning difficulties.

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JW: Yea, uhuh, but also at that time, Ah think we remember bits of play, so Ah think, Ah think that was around about the time of the Plowden Report...

SS: Yes, yea.

JW: ...in the sixties and active learning was, so we went through, going from-.

JM: Before we go on, just for the purpose of the recording, can you give a sense about the Plowden Report?

JW: Plowden Report looked at primary education, right from the start, well Ah think it was only primary.

SS: Ah think so.

JW: But it really was given looking at different approaches and moving away from rote learning and, you know...

SS: Whole class, everybody at the same-.

JW: ...to very much more, well, small groups and ability, looking at ability which-.

SS: Yea, and also looking at, Ah think, also what was actually taught because environmental studies was a big thing.

JW: Yes, yes, that's right, later on.

SS: You know, a way of learning, sort of enquiring.

JW: So, Ah think, when we started off in Primary 1, we were probably more active and more in play than other children starting in Primary 1 had been.

SS: Previously, yea.

JW: But then, when we went through we went to an older teacher who was quite strict and then we went into Primary 3 and that was like stepping back into time because we were very much, you know, weekly tests and sat round the room...

SS: Oh, yea.

JW: ...in order of in how you did in the weekly tests.

JM: And was that an older teacher, in Primary 3?

SS: Was that Miss Florence.

JW: Miss Florence, Ah don't know how old she was.

SS: Ah don't think she was that old.

JW: Ah don't think she was that old but she was very old fashioned. Do you remember she had those specs that had little wings on them and she could change the colour of the wings [*laughter*] so sometimes they were blue, sometimes they were green, you know, according to her outfit.

JM: So, she wasn't an older teacher but she had an older style.

JW: She was very old style, old-fashioned, yea.

SS: Maybe the style

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SS: of, yea. And spelling, because Ah remember getting spelling and we had to practice our spelling at home and on a Monday morning...

JW: Yea, I wasn't good at that [*laughs*].

SS: ...she just went round the class.

JW: And mental arithmetic.

SS: Uhuh, oh yes.

JM: So, did you get homework as young as that?

JW: Oh, we all got, we always had reading homework.

SS: Ah think there was reading, spelling, reading and spelling, Ah can't remember being asked to do anything else.

JW: Ah don't remember getting numbers.

SS: No.

JW: Did we get sums, can't remember.

SS: Ah can't remember, tables maybe.

JW: Yea, tables, yea learning tables from Primary 2, Ah think, probably, Ah think we started with the 2 times table?

JW: Can you remember, we often think, you know, when you reflect back on school, you think about number work and written work, can you remember much about PE [Physical Education] type activities?

JW: Yea, well, we used to go to the hall.

JM: Was there a specialist teacher, for example?

JW: Oh, Ah can't remember that.

SS: No.

JM: Like Sally Weston?

JW: Not early on in our [?].

SS: No, I just remember her from the Knox [Knox Academy].

JW: But I do remember there being things like a nature table an Ah remember...

SS: Oh yes.

JW: ...and going out to collect things...

SS: Yep.

JW: ...and nature was very much part.

SS: Yes.

JW: And that's really interesting from my point of view because Miss Montgomery would have been the end of the Froebel taught teachers where there was a great deal of emphasis on nature and play and outdoors. So that's really fascinating for me having gone back to look at a Froebelain approach later.

SS: Yea, that's really interesting.

JW: Yea, but Ah do remember us being in the hall an playing Have you Seen the Muffin Man.

SS: Yes!

JW: And, you know,

SS: Yes.

JW: ...playing circle games and you know, taking turns to be in the middle an-

SS: It's really interesting-.

JM: How do you play Have you Seen the Muffin Man? Can you describe it?

JW: Well, somebody pretends...

SS: Ah could sing the song but I'm not playing it.

JW: ...to have a tray of muffins...

SS: That's right.

Running time: 30.00

JW: ...and they stand in the centre and everybody sings Have You seen the Muffin Man.

'Have you seen the Muffin Man, the Muffin Man, the Muffin Man,
Have o seen the Muffin Man who lives in Drury Lane'

and then they stop opposite somebody and then everybody sings 'Yes, I've seen the Muffin Man', you know that.

SS: Uhuh.

JW: And then they swap over and it's their turn to be the Muffin Man. But there was other things-.

JM: It's not terribly active, is it?

JW: You had to sort of jump, hop, skippy things.

SS: Ah can remember learning to do bunny hops and things like that and Ah can remember-.

JW: And you had to get changed.

SS: Uhuh, an we went outside the back, through the little door in the classroom.

JW: There were gym, there were benches and mats and swing boats an, you know-.

SS: Oh, yea, and these angle things, the angles...

JW: Climbing frames, yes.

SS: ...they're structures, yea that you hook the benched onto and have to walk across.

JW: No, Ah remember all o that stuff.

JM: And was that all your class teacher.

SS: Yea.

JM: Can't remember.

SS: I think it was. Well, I'm saying that-.

JM: And when you say you got changed, what was your PE kit?

JW: Well-.

JM: Was it a kind of school expectation that you had navy shorts and a white t-shirt or was it-?.

JW: Ah can't remember.

SS: Ah can only remember getting changed as we got older, maybe Primary 4.

JW: I remember having gym shoes on.

SS: Gym shoes, yep.

JW: An Ah remember when Ah started school, one of my great-aunts gave me navy knickers that, right from the size of age five right up to the age of fourteen, and they had a label on them with, they were Cherub knickers.

SS: Oh.

JW: And they had two little angels on the thing and by the time you got to fourteen they had legs [*laughter*]. Because, presumably, by then you were supposed to have a suspender belt [*laughter*] and stockings. So, that was hilarious. And she came with them wrapped up in a brown paper parcel, you know, when Ah started school and Ah remember being horrified that somebody would buy you pants, you know,

Running time 32.00

JW: an then, of course, later, you know, ma mum was really giggling because, you know, like when you open them up and these big cotton knickers [*laughs*], oh dear.

JM: Right.

JW: So, no, Ah don't remember wearing those, Ah would have been far too embarrassed to be doing PE in ma knickers. Ah couldn't have done that.

SS: People used to talk about it but Ah don't actually...

JW: Ah don't remember doing that.

SS: ...think that I ever saw that.

JM: And you obviously didn't wear a school uniform if you were wearing a jersey that was a bit like a bee.

JW: But Ah had a blazer, I remember having a blazer.

SS: Ah think I had a blazer too but maybe it was an off day or, Ah don't know, or I don't know.

JW: But that would be the winter, you wouldn't wear a blazer in the winter.

JM: In this photograph you're wearing a tie...

SS: I've got a tie on an a...

JM: And a white cardigan.

SS: ...white cardigan. White, it's very practical.

JM: I've got a kilt.

JM: In fact, you're both wearing ties.

SS: An you've got a kilt on.

JW: Yea. Yea, because we did have ties, yes. And Ah remember-.

JM: And could you tie the tie? Did you have to learn to tie the tie before you went to school?

JW: No, Ah can't remember. Ah don't think we wore them all the time.

JM: No?

JW: No.

SS: Just maybe told it's a school photo...

JW: You'll have to wear your tie.

SS: ...wear your tie, yea.

JW: Cause look, Sheena's not got, these ones havenae got on, at that would have been much more how I would have been normally dressed.

SS: Yea, definitely.

JM: Ah'll take a photograph of this picture and include it.

JW: Yea.

JM: So, going back to school and the activities that you did, do you ever remember going on any school trips? Any outings?

JW: We went on walks, when we were in Primary 1.

SS: Yes, mm.

JM: What was the purpose, was it just to go out?

JW: It was a nature walk.

SS: A nature walk, uhuh.

JW: It was a nature walk. Yea, what else did we do? I brought this book with me because this really reminded me. This is the Ladybird of Going to School book.

JM: Is this the original?

JW: It's not, well, it is an original. But, you know, it's, it is Ladybird land but it does make you think back

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| Running time: 34.00 |
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JW: to some of the things that you did. See, for example, Ah never went to school lunch, Ah donno about...

JM: Did many children?

JW: ...yea, there were children that went.

SS: Did you?

JW: Did you?

JM: I never had school lunches.

SS: Yes, I didn't at first but my mum got a job. Obviously, with me going to school...

JM: It was freedom for your mum.

SS: ...she got a job an Ah can remember being really upset about going to school-.

JW: Lunch.

SS: Uhuh, because nobody, not a lot of people did and Ah was really upset because Ah wouldn't be with ma mum. So, one day Ah decided that I would leave the school...

JW: Oh yes.

SS: ...and Ah walked form Victoria Road to the Railway Hotel an somehow I must have crossed the road, on my own.

JM: So, that's the crossroads.

JW: Well, there would have been a lolly man.

SS: Aye, but not during the school day.

JW: Yea, yea.

SS: Oh, at lunchtime.

JW: Because Ah used to go home for lunch.

SS: Well, this person must have let me across the road.

JW: On your own.

SS: And not questioned it.

JW: Yea.

SS: An Ah remember because Ah knew ma mum would have been walking up the street, past and she'd take me home for lunch. Obviously, it's what I thought, well, clearly when I saw the expression on her face...

JW: That wasn't gonna happen [*laughter*].

SS: ... that wasn't going to happen an Ah was taken back round to the school. Ah didn't see the problem with it, personally.

JW: But do you know-?

SS: That a child would walk out of school-.

JW: Yea. But Ah went once Ah think because ma mum was away one day or something an Ah had to go an Ah hated that, Ah was hugely upset about it. But one of the reasons was, it was actually an hour and a half we had for lunch so, you know, you were the youngest children and you were wait-, you had all that time where, you know, and if you didn't have much, if you hadn't had much contact with other children, it was actually a melee.

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SS: Yea, a hotpot, yea.

JW: Do you know, you felt completely kinna lost.

JM: You're saying about walking home on your own in the middle of the school day...

SS: Mm.

JM: ...so obviously no playground supervision...

JW: No, no.

SS: No, no.

JM: ...or any play leaders or anything like that.

JW: No, no.

JM: But, if you think to going to school and going home from school, did you walk on your own or were you taken to school?

JW: No.

JM: Or did you go with your brother?

SS: I think in the mornings, because my mum was working, we walked down with her...

JM: You and your brother?

SS: ...yep, and parted company at the Railway. Coming home, Ah can't really remember. Ah can remember, maybe when Ah was a bit older, going down the street because ma mum worked in a shop an Ah went to the shop. Ah can't really remember.

JW: Ma mum must have been up and down the road umpteen times because she used to come and take ma and also bring me home and Ah came home for lunch, so. And, of course, ma sister was in the pram, so she was up and done the road four times day.

SS: Oh gosh.

JW: But there were lots of mothers did that. Maybe later-.

SS: So that was Ah think quite, yea.

JW: You know, there was a lot of mothers they weren't working at that time.

SS: Yea, uhuh, yea.

JW: Yea.

SS: Ah can remember also being sent home from school...

JW: On your own?

SS: ...having been sick an Ah was sent home from school, yea.

JW: Were you?

JM: On your own?

SS: Uhuh. Now, at that time we didn't have a phone.

JW: Oh, yea, of course, ok.

SS: Because I was much older when we got a phone an Ah can remember walking home. an ma dad was in. So, Ah don't know if the school knew that ma dad was in. Ah don't know how they would have known that, but ma dad was in [*laughter*].

SS: There was no-.

JW: Maybe you knew, thou, maybe you knew that he would be in.

SS: Well, maybe, maybe, that could, but even though 'Yea, ma dad's at home.' 'Yea, off you go.'

JM: So, how old would you be when you were?

SS: That's when we were in the hut, that would be Primary 4?

Running time: 38.00

JW: Primary 5.

SS: Was it not Primary-.

JW: No, 4 we were in that room off the hall.

SS: Oh, right, 5 then, Primary 5.

JW: Yea, mm, yup. You were quite old by then.

SS: Old enough, yes.

JM: But when we think to, well you're talking about Primary 5 there and you were in the hut, can you describe the hut?

JW: That was like a, it was almost like a prefabricated classroom. Presumably, it must have been put there because they were running out of space.

SS: Uhuh.

JW: Because we were, we were, of course, the first year of Primary 7 in King's Meadow.

SS: That's right.

JM: Yea.

JW: In the new build, so yea, it must have been put there at some point, but it was fantastic being in that hut. And we had a young teacher who, you were talking about, you know, the development of the environmental studies.

SS: Yep.

JW: I mean, that was a huge, and we were lucky, cause at that stage we had the three classes...

JM: There were three young teachers.

JW: ...three young teachers who worked together and we had tremendous experiences...

SS: Yea.

JW: ...through that. You know, very, well, very much what like you would almost hope children were having now.

SS: Mm.

JW: You know, we had, they taught different subjects that they were particularly interested in.

SS: That's right.

JW: We did lots of project work, Ah remember going down, we did a project on weather, two of us were sent down to the weather vane every day, to the...

JM: In the park?

JW: ...uhuh, to check, you just had to go on your own. You met the guy there and he would open the box up and he would tell ye how much rain there had been or whatever.

SS: Yea, that's right, actually.

JW: An then you went back and recorded it in-.

JM: So, let's just, for the purpose of the recording, what was in the park?

JW: It was some sort of w-.

SS: It was something, like a weather station.

JW: A weather station, yes.

SS: Like a slatted box.

JW: Yea, that's right.

JM: And what did it record, do you remember...

JW: I think it was rainfall.

JM: ...what statistics?

JW: I think it was rainfall, maybe it was more than that, Ah don't know.

Running time: 40.00

SS: The wind.

JW: Maybe, Ah've no idea. But, anyway, we went.

JM: That was in Neilson Park?

JW: It's so much freer though, isn't it? Off you go to the park...

JW: Yes.

SS: Mm.

JM: ...and meet this man or-.

JW: Yep. Oh, actually, Ah remember us going two trips when we were a lot younger. One was to the Courier Office.

SS: Ah remember that.

JW: That was fascinating, to see how the Courier was printed.

SS: Mm.

JW: And also going to the West Mills?

JM: Do you want to tell us a bit about a trip, each

SS: Right. Ah don't remember the West Mills so Ah could speak about the Courier office.

JM: OK.

SS: So, Ah don't remember what the context was-.

JM: The local area.

SS: Because we also went to the police station.

JW: We did.

SS: We went to, so it must have been about-.

JW: Was that in, when we were in Primary 3? Was that when we had to collect all the matchboxes and we made a model of the whole of the High Street and the Market Street? And each building was represented by a matchbox?

SS: Oh, my goodness, yea.

JW: It probably was because then it would be like your local...

SS: Uhuh, yea.

JW: ...services.

SS: It was about our town, what's happening. An Ah remember the police station because Ah remember, when ma mum worked in the shop down the street, walking past the police station and just being really scared because the police were in there. And being taken in an just seeing, there was a, Ah remember a policeman sitting in the kitchen, in the police station just having a cuppa tea. An you thought 'How normal is that?', someone just having a cup of tea?

JW: You were obviously really impressed because you-.

JM: And then you went on to join the police force[*laughter*].

SS: There you go with that, there was obviously a big impression that the police get to drink tea, yea.

JW: Just normal people [*laughter*].

SS: And then the Courier office was really incredible, because the man along the road from me, Mr Apse, I don't know if you know?

JW: No.

SS: He was a printer, Ah think, because he was my, one of my referees

Running time: 42.00

SS: for getting into the police, he worked there, an Ah thought that was amazing because there-.

JW: Did he set the print?

SS: Yea they had these big-.

JM: We should maybe say that the Courier is the local newspaper.

JM: Used to be the Haddingtonshire Courier but then the East Lothian Courier and it was printed and published in Haddington unt-.

SS: That's right, in Market Street.

JM: Yes.

SS: In Newton Port. And we were taken through the process...

JW: Yea, we were.

SS: ...really, you know, just guided right through the process.

JW: And John Wood was one of the typesetters, as well.

SS: Oh, right.

JW: Well, Ah just know, cause he lived near, well originally, lived near me. Yes, and do you remember the great big sheets, cause they typeset it, and then they sort of print it onto kinna wax or plastic stuff.

SS: Aye there was big...

JW: Big curved.

SS: ...Ah remember big drums, uhuh.

JW: And then we saw it all roll, printing with the ink and them all rolling of the end and the huge rolls of plain newsprint.

SS: That's right, yep. And it's just that was unbelievable, actually.

JW: That's yea. And Ah mean tremendous, you know, kinda real experiences, you know, for children, you know.

SS: This is how it works and-.

JW: Yea. The West Mills, Ah think, we must have, well, Ah remember going there but...

SS: Don't remember.

JW: ...Ah don't remember that much about it. Ah remember the mill, the actual looms and the clattering noise of the looms. And, also, us coming back and doing little bits of kinda weaving things, Sorry, Ah wonder if that was in Primary 3. I also remember we had to make little books out of newsprint and it had a little tie round it and you had to write and draw on the little book.

SS: Wow.

JW: See, I was al-, you went into the police, Ah was always in at teaching [*laughter*].

JM: You've probably still got those.

JW: Ah will have those, yea, somewhere in a cupboard.

JM: Uhuh, yes, uhuh, multitude of things.

JW: Yea. I remember having handwriting when we were quite little too, but that might have been when we were in Primary 2.

Running time: 44:00

JW: And we had, Ah think we had special jotters, where, you know, you had the lower case...

SS: The different-.

JW: ...the lines, uhuh, the lines were differently spaced so that you can, I can also remember, in Primary 2, that kind of first moment of thinking that you could write.

SS: Mm.

JW: And that thing of, you know, having, because we were, we were, there was quite a fair amount of phonics taught to us, in like, initial sounds as well as, you know, word, the patterns of...

SS: Yes.

JW: ...of how things were taught.

SS: Mm.

JW: So, I remember one day we had, we must have been, had to write a story, because the vast majority of the time it was like 'write a sentence' and you had to choose out the correct word to put in the sentence and you ended up with like four sentences...

SS: Oh, yes, uhuh.

JW: ...an it was like, you know, it was just copying really...

SS: I found that quite hard.

JW: ...and choosing a word.

SS: Ah did, Ah remember [?].

JW: Ok. An then, but this day we must have been able to write on our own, an Ah decided Ah was gonna write Snow-white and the Seven Dwarves. An Ah remember staring off, you know, thinking 'Oh well, this is easy, Ah've cracked this now. Every letter has a sound so all you do is write down the letter when you hear the sound.'

SS: Wow.

JW: An off Ah trotted, you know for, like four pages or whatever, three pages of this which, of course, was nothing like what it was actually written down. An Ah remember once sitting thinking 'Right, so it says A, oh that's all right cause you just write that as a capital.'

SS: A capital, oh dear.

JW: Oh dear.

JW: So, it's like cracking that kinda phonic code...

JM: Yea.

JW: ...without knowing about what people call the alphabetic principle...

SS: Yea, uhuh, yea.

JW: ...where you've got to learn that, you know, you've got more than one correspondence between letters and sounds. It was fascinating.

JM: It's fantastic that you have such clear memories of all these things.

JW: Well, Ah never did anything else [*laughter*].

Running time: 46.00

SS: Ah can't remember, Ah can't remember that kind of thing. It must be, Ah can remember, Ah still remember play. I can remember sewing.

JW: Yes, Ah remember sewing.

JM: What did you sew?

SS: We got, is it, what's it-?

JM: Binca.

SS: Binca materials where you got a little square an you got embroidery thread.

JW: Yep.

SS: Now you-.

JW: An you started off with just in out, in out, in out...

SS: Yea, and then you-?

JW: ...an then you had to do things like...

SS: Crosses and V's.

JW: ...cross over and V and then it got more and more tricky the further that you got in.

SS: Uhuh.

JW: And then when you got to the end you got to rip away some of...

SS: You got a fringe.

JW: ...the edge to make a fray, a frayed edge. Ah haven't still got that, it's always a big disappointment [*laughter*].

SS: I've still got mine, Jane, and because my brother, was that Miss Petrie and Mrs Hastings...

JW: Uhuh, Ah think so.

SS: ...he had her as well so he had one but I can remember, an Ah don't know if this is a false memory, if the boys did it in our class, because I have this memory of doing something at the desk...

JW: Uhuh.

SS: ...an the boys were playing.

JW: Oh right. Well, the boys did, Ah think it was in Primary 3, an the boys did weaving an we did, possibly, knitting.

SS: Ah can remember that also.

JW: An we started off by knitting a long thingy, a long narrow piece and then we made it into a coat hanger cover.

SS: Oh, yes.

JM: Have you ever taught children to knit? It's incredibly difficult.

JW: Uhuh, so imagine doing it with a class...

SS: A class.

JW: ...a class of, so Ah think ma, probably, ma mum helped a bit.

SS: I remember, it's another telling off, row that Ah got, because do you remember we made teddy bears?

JW: Yes, mine was a panda.

SS: I remember that [*laughter*]. I remember some people had pandas an I had this yellow, and ma mum liked to knit, so she did quite a bit of it,

Running time: 48.00

SS: of course not realising that you don't tell the teacher that.

JW: Yes, ok.

SS: An Ah can remember her saying 'Well, we'll just get your mother to come down to school and sit in your seat an do your work, will we?' The humiliation.

JW: That's right. But then, do you remember after that we then went on to knit long strips an we put them together an we sent it, Ah think, to Blue Peter?

SS: Yea, was that for Biafra?

JW: Ah think so.

SS: Because Ah also remember doing triangles.

JW: Oh, yea, you had to start off with one stitch, go up to something like, was it fifteen or thirty?

SS: However many-.

JW: And then back to one.

SS: Uhuh. That's quite technical.

JW: Yea, it took quite a lot of time.

JM: Then did somebody-.

JW: Some people were better, much better than others.

JM: So, why do you Google 'how to [?]'.

SS: Because that's a distant memory.

JM: Yea.

SS: But yea. And egg cosies.

JW: Oh, yes, that was right, egg cosies, yes, and you started off with a strip an that was two...

SS: An that was rib.

JW: An that was rib, that's right. An then you had to wind the wool round the top...

SS: The wee person.

JW: ...the wee person, hair sticking up, and put the arms in going across that way.

SS: What fun.

JM: But how creative an, Ah mean, Ah wonder if you spoke to children, nowadays, if they would have these [?].

JW: Ah don't think it was that creative, we were all doing the same thing [*laugher*].

SS: Uhuh, yes, Ah think, yea. But yea, that's the thing though between doing the same thing and doing your own thing but you have to have the skill to do it.

JW: Yea, yea, uhuh, that's right.

SS: Ah think they were, there was a concentration on skill.

JW: Skill, yes, yes.

SS: Which you could apply.

JW: Yes, that's true.

SS: And I don't know if-

JW: Do you ever remember making a cardboard bridge? An we had to have, we were given out Stanley Knives, that was in...

SS: Oh no.

JW: ...that was late-.

JM: How old when you had a Stanley Knife?

JW: Well, Ah think we were in Primary 5 or Primary 6, it was quite late on. Ah don't know what the context for that was

Running time: 50.00

JW: but we had to, we started off and we had to measure out all the boxes.

SS: Oh, Ah can't remember that.

JW: And then after the boxes you had, you know, you had to cut it out and, with the Stanley Knife, and then glue it together to make this bridge.

SS: Oh, my.

JW: Dunno why?

SS: Oh, my, don't remember that. Oh my, no, don't remember that.

JM: Well, if we move on slightly further through Primary education, and the school was kinna getting a bit full to capacity and Primary 6 was our last year in Haddington Public School.

SS: Mm.

JM: By that time there were lots of portacabins.

JW: Yep.

JM: So, can you, I remember our class shared an entrance, Ah think, with 6B so you must have been in portacabin.

JW: We weren't in, we were never in a that portacabin.

SS: No.

JM: Were you never?

JW: No, we were in the main building.

SS: Yea, that corner classroom.

JW: We were in the hut. Yea, that one in the photograph there.

SS: Yea.

JW: We were in that classroom.

JM: In Primary 6?

SS: Mm.

JW: Yes. Cause in Primary 5 we were in the wooden hut.

JM: Right, ok.

JW: So, but you were through the partition from us in one of them.

JM: Yes, so why, unless we were maybe just out with a different teacher.

SS: Yes, Ah can remember cause...

JW: Oh, that was...

SS: ...Miss Ritchie.

JW: Miss Ritchie, used to do history and handwriting in that portacabin an then Ah think, were there not maybe, oh Ah don't know there was other classes through there.

SS: Do you remember being, the old Knox Institute...

JM: Old Knox, yes.

SS: ...as it's called now.

JW: Yes.

SS: That used to be the P7.

JW: Yes, that's right.

SS: And there was, we were taken up the tower...

JW: Yes.

SS: ...dark windey stair...

JW: Yes.

SS: ...to the top...

JW: Uhuh.

SS: ...where we were shown films.

JW: It was the television. We went to the television, we were...

JM: Yea.

SS: Ah remember the television...

JW: ...we were learning French.

SS: Yes.

Running time: 52.00

JW: We went every week to this programme to learn French.

SS: Ah didn't like French, ah can remember that, that's how Ah remember that.

JW: Yea, but there were like pigeons...

SS: Uhuh.

JW: ...and everything flying about in it cause there was holes in the-.

JM: Did they not wrap polythene over the windows?

SS: It was really dark, it was like cloth.

JW: Yes.

SS: Because, now, was it Miss Bell and somebody else, it wasn't the three of them Ah don't think, they went to America?

JW: Ah think, did she not, oh, was it not Miss Davidson? Did the two of them not go to America?

SS: Two of them did.

JW: Yes.

SS: And they used to show us slides...

JW: That's right.

SS: Of their holidays.

JW: That's right, Ah remember that.

SS: [?].

JW: Ah remember that clearly. The Grand Canyon...

SS: Uhuh.

JW: ...and, yea. Oh well, we would never have been.

SS: It was interesting.

JW: Absolutely.

SS: And because we learned, you know...

JW: Yea.

SS: ...the sequoias and...

JW: Yea.

SS: ...what have you. And the petrified forests and all that.

JW: And then, do you remember we had a party, as well, and we had, it must have been a Christmas party or whatever and we had ham-, frankfurters,[*laughs*] hot dogs.

JM: What year was that?

JW: When we were in that room in Primary 6, Ah think.

SS: Hot dogs?

JW: An Ah remember the, well, that particular tune, the Arches, Sugar, Sugar...

SS: Oh yes.

JW: ...tune, that was playing at that party, which must have been in the hall.

SS: It's funny, and it's just sort of jumped into my head talking about children sitting watching these...

JW: Yea.

SS: ...slides, pictures, basically, of their teacher's holidays.

JW: Yea.

SS: I can remember when ma brother took his two children out of school to go to Florida. And, you know, I can remember, Ah don't know how old they were, it doesn't matter, but Ah remember ma dad wasn't very pleased because he had taken the children out of school. An he

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| Running time: 54.00 |
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SS: was not pleased and his words to me were 'When I was at school, we didn't go on holidays and it was your teacher that went on holidays and they told you about their holidays.'

JW: Ok.

JM: Wow.

SS: And that's just come back to me, to my-

JW: The other thing I remember, I wonder, would it be round about that time that there was all the moon stuff. Cause I remember us talking about planets and actually going up to Miss Bell's house...

SS: Mm.

JW: ...in the dark, cause her father had a telescope that she had been telling us and knocking on her door and saying 'It's a nice clear night, could we see through your telescope?' [*laughter*]. And Ah mean, now, when you think about it. And her father went away and got the telescope and brought it out to have a look.

JM: I can remember Miss Davidson showing us her wedding photographs and Miss Ritchie had been her bridesmaid.

JW: Oh, right.

JM: And they had matching dresses, in different colours.

JW: Uhuh.

JM: One was red and one was green.

JW: [*laughs*], lovely.

SS: Well, that's lovely.

JM: And they were both student teachers when we were in Primary 2...

JW: Yep.

JM: ...and they came back as class teachers in Primary 3.

JW: Yea, that 's right. Miss, I remember Miss Ritchie was in our class, I remember she had a very smart Twiggy-like apricot suit. It was wonderful.

JM: But they were just...

SS: Wow.

JM: ...everything that young...

SS: Uhuh.

JW: Yes.

JM: ...and...

JW: Enthusiasm.

JM: ...yea, when you think back and their skirts were incredibly short.

JW: Uhuh, mini-skirts.

SS: Mm.

JW: But I remember, also, being aware of other children's parents, who were quite disapproving of how all these active things and-

SS: Oh, really?

JW: Yea, uhuh. And 'That's not what you should be taught at school.' You know 'You should be sitting down...

SS: Oh, for goodness sake.

JW: ...and, you know, the three Rs and,

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| Running time: 56:00 |
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JW: you know.

JM: I don't think my mum was ever a huge fan of Miss Davidson, because I think she thought we should have had an older teacher.

JW: Mm.

SS: Oh, can't remember ma mum or dad ever making any comments.

JW: Ah think ma mum and dad were happy...

SS: Yea.

JW: ...you know, they were-.

SS: Although, Ah do remember, see when we went to different teachers? Miss Davidson did maths...

JW: English.

SS: ...ah though she did maths, cause Ah can remember her writing things on the board an we copied them down.

JW: Oh, but they all did, we were set for English and maths.

SS: Oh right, because Ah remember ending up with Miss, Mrs Hazard?

JW: Oh yes, uhuh, you and I and were you not-.

JM: Was that not Primary 7?

JW: That was in Primary 7.

SS: That was 7, in King's Meadow.

JW: Uhuh, that was set...

JM: She was scary.

SS: Yea.

JW: ...we were set for that.

SS: Napier's bones.

JW: Yea.

JM: Napier's bones.

JW: Yes.

SS: Brilliant, that was great, though.

JW: Yea.

SS: But, also, remember maths in context. That year we were taken out in groups with Mr Murdie...

JW: Yes.

SS: ...and he had a theodolite.

JW: Yes.

SS: And he was telling us how to measure the height of the tree out, it's still there, outside the window in King's Meadow. An Ah can remember thinking 'Why? Why? Why do you need to measure trees?' And not understanding a word of what he was saying and thinking 'Ach'.

JW: That was an extension activity, [?].

SS: Was it? Well.

JW: That's right. But do you also remember that that year that we had the magazine committee?

SS: Oh, yes.

JW: We had a...

JM: Hold on, which year are we in now?

JW: Primary 7.

SS: 7.

JM: So, just to put this into context, in Primary 7, we were the first year-group at the opening of King's Meadow.

JW: And, of course there was the concert.

SS: Yes.

JM: Which, of course, well, if we just also put into context: King's Meadow, that was the opening of it, 1971, maybe...

SS: Ah think so.

JW: Yea, Ah think so.

JM: ...and this sessions

Running time: 58.00

JM: for 2018/19 had seen the end of King's Meadow and Haddington Public School and we've gone back to one through-stream school.

JW: Mm, yep.

JM: So, between, well, you've sort of encompassed the division and the coming together and everything else, because being the last head teacher of Haddington Infant School.

JW: Interesting, isn't it?

SS: Yea.

JW: Because infant schools were very popular throughout Britain...

SS: Uhuh, yes.

JW: ...you know, and then they became less popular.

SS: Not so.

JM: So, King's Meadow was a division between the infant school and Primary 4 to Primary 7.

Ss: Mm.

JW: Yea.

JM: But there was no nursery attached to the school, at that time.

JW: No. Well, the nursery came, actually, well 'Were your children maybe not one of the first-.'

JM: My eldest son went to nursery in a portacabin...

JW: Yes.

JM: ...in the school playground.

JW: Uhuh, yes.

SS: And then Euan went to nursery in the school.

JM: Yes, so did Rory...

SS: Euan was the-.

JM:so that would be 1991.

JW: Oh, was that in the infant-?

JM: Class, 1991.

SS: Yes, that's when that opened up.

JW: Ok.

JM: But [?].

SS: Because Laura went to the separate nursery which was in the...

JM: Portacabin.

SS: ...yea, next to the hut.

JW: Yes, but I wonder why, how suddenly there was space in the infant school?

JM: I don't know.

JW: And do you also remember that in that infant school, along the end and up the stairs, there was a special class?

SS: Yes, Mrs Lyness. Was it not?

JM: Was it not...

JW: No.

JM: ...was it not Mr Lyness?

SS: No.

JW: No, no, Mr Lyness was the special class in the secondary school.

SS: Uhuh.

JW: No, there was...

SS: It was Mrs Lyness, cause Ah remember she made...

JW: No, not his wife...

SS: She was an old...

JW: ...no, she was a nurse.

SS: ...older woman.

JW: No, she wasn't, no, she wasn't, it wasn't Lyness.

SS: Oh.

Running time: 60.00

JM: Can you remember anything about children who were part of that class?

SS: Mm.

JW: Yes, uhuh, children with no-.

JM: They'd got learning disabilities.

JW: Yea, well probably autistic now, when Ah think back. You know children with no language.

SS: Yea, there was a little boy that lived in Caponflat Crescent, round the corner from me, he went. And I think, Ah'm not aware of knowing when Ah was younger, but Ah think, looking back, Ah think he may have had Down's Syndrome.

JW: Oh yea, well, of course, yea, cause remember Valerie Henderson's brother had Down's Syndrome and remember he used to go to that class...

SS: That's right.

JW: ...and then he would come and join us at the end of the thing in Primary 6, cause he must have got out of class earlier and he came in and joined us at the end of the day, till it was time to go.

JM: So, did he, was there any integration that you can remember...

JW: No.

KM: ...of the children from the special class?

JW: No, not really.

SS: No, they, in the playground, Ah can remember them in the playground.

JW: Ah right, ok.

SS: Because I remember I was quite scared because they were a lot older than us?

JW: Yes, some of them.

SS: And bigger?

JW: Yes, that's right, cause it must have been all the way through, yes.

SS: Uhuh.

JW: Yes.

SS: Yea, uhuh. An Ah can remember some people and they weren't you know. Again, there was no supervision...

JW: No.

SS: ...the children clearly...

JW: They kept out of our way.

SS: ...needed support but they were in the playground with no support and toiling with social skills...

JW: Yes, yes.

SS: ...and, yea [*phew noise*].

JW: Yea.

SS: Yea, that was quite hard.

JW: Mm.

SS: Yea.

JM: And moving on to King's Meadow, a completely different environment for your last year of primary education. What were your first impressions of King's Meadow? Apart from, you couldn't wear your shoes.

JW: It was quite

JM: [?] shoes.

JW: Ah know, it was quite alien and actually that wasn't a part-, Ah don't think that was a particularly

Running time: 62.00

JW: good year for us because remember our teacher became pregnant and was off for quite a lot of the year.

SS: Was that Mrs Malcolm?

JW: Mm. And Ah think they tried to continue to teach in the same way that they, well, Ah mean the whole thing changed for us because we had had these three young teachers, who got on so well, and they had, you now...

SS: Excellent team teaching and yep.

JW: ...that's right and we had hugely and then we moved back to like one teacher and three teachers who were very different, really.

JM: Yea.

JW: And although they did, we were set for maths and language, it was never, Ah don't remember it being a particularly happyish year although Ah think you became more social. Do you know, at that point, we became more interested in other children in the class and becoming friends and things.

SS: Yes, but also, Ah think, the layout of the school facilitated that because what I remember about it was that it was open, it was airy, glass corridors and it had the courtyards.

JW: Yes.

SS: Ah remember we were allowed to go outside and read...

JW: Yes.

SS: ...which we chatted.

JW: Mm.

SS: And that's the sort of social aspect and Ah remember an awful lot of Primary 7 seemed to be just working on you own.

JW: Uhuh.

SS: Just working on your own and projects...

JW: Yea.

SS: ...and if you had finished your work there was something to do. Or you went out into the GP area and did something that, Ah don't know if there was that much purpose to it.

JW: No, and we folders, we had ring-binder folders instead of jotters...

SS: Yes.

JW: ...and paper with punched holes so that we could, and we had a sort of folder and with different subjects in it Ah think.

SS: Yea, that was quite-.

JM: So, it was quite modern.

JW: Ah also remember Ah made a skirt which never fitted [*laughter*].

Running time: 64.00

JM: In primary school?

JW: Yep, Primary 7, using the sewing machine.

SS: Ah can't remember that.

JW: Ah remember laying out a pattern and everything, yea.

SS: Wow. Oh, no Ah remember.

JM: That was in the empty classroom, wasn't it? There were three class-, there were four classrooms but only three of them had classes.

JW: Yes, was built for growth.

JM: And there was an empty one [*laughter*].

JM: Yes, uhuh.

JW: Now too small.

JM: Uhuh.

JW: An Ah loved, Ah mean I, we used to, you know, have all these Mr Murdie would take us for singing.

SS: Aw.

JW: And, see, I loved...

JM: So, Mr Murdie, the head teacher?

SS: Yes.

JW: ...uhuh, Ah loved that.

SS: I remember-.

JW: I remember that joy of actually everybody singing together, Ah really, I really loved it.

SS: It was fun, uhuh, or you would go to watch, if another class had put on a play...

JW: Yea.

SS: ...like a sort of assembly, if you like...

JW: Yea.

SS: ...but the singing. An Ah remember there was lots and lots of practices before the school opened...

JW: Yes.

SS: ...before King's Meadow...

JW: Absolutely.

SS: ...opened, ah.

JW: Yea, and what did we sing?

SS: [*coughs*] Various songs.

JW: Uhuh.

SS: Em.

JW: We sang Jerusalem, Ah think.

SS: We did, uhuh.

JW: We sang Jerusalem and we sang Where'er She Walks.

SS: How does that go, Jane.

JM: I don't even know that song.

SS: I can't remember that one.

JW: Oh, I couldn't possibly sing it, Ah'm sorry.

SS: See, Ah suppose it must be my-.

JW: Ah think it's a madrigal or something.

SS: Aw, Ah can't remember. That's obviously my mentality and I obviously like a novelty song was the Linga Linga Lang Time.

JW: Yes, yes, that was in Primary 6 though, wasn't it?

JM: I can remember when they started instrumental tuition...

JW: Oh, yes.

JM: ...in Primary 7, because I got one or two violin lessons. And we must have had a concert but because we'd only started violin, all we could do was pluck the strings [*laughter*].

JW: I think I wasn't chosen for that, I don't think I'd any musical ability.

SS: No, no.

JM: That was all we did.

Running time: 66.00

JM: And what about out of school?

JW: Hang on, [*thumping noise*], I brought my other book...

SS: Oh yes.

JW: ...which is Moonfleet.

JM: Right, and the author, sorry?

JW: J Meade Falkner. An I remember us reading this.

JM: Aw!

JW: Not in, it was read to us.

SS: To us, uhuh.

JW: And that was one of the things that I thought was fantastic.

SS: Yea, I loved that.

JW: We were read to every day.

SS: Yes.

JW: And, you know, it was a, obviously, it's quite a thick book. And I then went on to buy the book and, if you look inside, Ah bought a book, the book, as a prize.

SS: Wow.

JW: You got a...

JM: Oh, right.

JW: ...sticker to stick inside it.

JM: Wow.

JW: So, but Ah think it must have been when Ah was in, yea, Knox Academy, so when we went to secondary school.

JM: Gosh.

JW: Because it's a story that Ah would never have read, I mean it's a pirate story and you know, smugglers and it was pretty scary...

SS: Yea.

JW: ...but I just thought it was fantastic.

SS: Ah remember also The Wolves of Willoughby Chase.

JW: Yes, uhuh, yes.

JM: Ash Road, but we were read Ash Road by your teacher.

JW: Oh right, ok. She must have been into reading.

SS: And somebody else, was it your class, or the other class? It was a story about pioneers moving across America.

JW: Oh, yes, what was that called? Children on the Oregon Trail?

SS: Was it?

JW: Might have been.

SS: Cause remember sometimes, if your teacher was off you didn't get a supply, and you went into the other class?

JW: Yes.

JM: That's true, you were all split up weren't you?

JW: Yes.

SS: And therefore, the teacher would be reading a story and you'd be getting half a story. Ah can remember that.

JW: Oh, there were some supply teachers...

SS: Yes.

JW: ...because do you remember Miss McLaggan?

SS: Oh, my goodness.

JW: And you had to have your hankie and pinned with a safety pin in your pocket.

SS: I remember-.

Running time: 68.00

JW: So, how you were supposed to get it out your pocket to blow your nose, don't know [*laughs*].

SS: The things that Ah remember about her is that she seemed really, really old...

JW: Yes.

SS: ...and she had taught my dad.

JW: Oh right.

SS: And she tried to teach me, at least she did it with the whole class, long division.

JW: Yes.

SS: And every sort of set you would get, you would go out to her table, she would mark it, you would go back and then you had to, everybody had to, was it everybody stood up, 'Sit down if you got one wrong. Sit down if you got two wrong.'

JW: And you had to bring in a small piece of fabric to pin into the desks so that if the desk lid fell down...

SS: It didn't bang.

JW: ...it didn't bang.

SS: Oh gosh.

JM: Gosh.

SS: But she took us, or some children, Ah don't know how we were chosen, there was a, what do you call them? Is it a Passion Play, at St Mary's. And she took us to that after school.

JM: Ok.

SS: An Ah can remember, a totally, well, for me, an experience to go into the church but Ah don't think it was an experience for, Ah don't know whatever people-.

JM: So, this is St Mary's Parish Church...

SS: Yes.

JM: ...not the Catholic school.

SS: No. No, it was the-.

JM: So, there was really no connection between the primary school and the Catholic school, until secondary.

JW: No, no.

SS: No.

JW: Except that we used to shout names at each other, Ah think.

SS: Mm, used to walk past.

JW: Yea.

SS: Different uniform and-.

JW: Yea, sort of completely separate system.

SS: Yea.

JW: What was Ah gonna say? I remember us also going out on trips, when we in, like, Primary 5, Primary 6, going to Dunfermline Park.

SS: Yes.

JW: And also going down to Berwick on Tweed.

SS: Ah remember that, as well.

JW: Going, walking along the walls.

SS: Round the walls, uhuh.

JW: Yep. We also went swimming.

SS: Oh, I remember that with horror.

JM: So, there were swimming lessons

Running time: 70.00

JM: Primary 6 possibly? Down to Port Seton outdoor pool.

JW: Yes, yup, and it was freezing. It was May, Ah think, and you had to, well, you got in the pool, it was freezing. And, that summer, Ah had just about learned to swim when we had been in Ullapool because, of course, learning to swim in the sea you're...

SS: A bit more buoyant.

JW: ...a bit more buoyant. And Ah did learn to swim, you know, there an Ah was probably nearly swimming when we started to go. And then you had, Ah used to take a flask cause...

SS: Mm. of soup.

JW: ...when you came out it was absolutely freezing. And do you remember the one day when we arrived and there was steam rising from the, and we went 'Wow, it must be really hot today.' And, of course, it wasn't, it's just that it was really cold [*Laughs*].

JM: I just remember the whole pool area, you know, you see the rust running down the white walls and it was a bit run down.

JW: Yea.

JM: And you go, well, you went into this grand entrance and you went through into this not very grand pool.

JW: Yea. And were the changing, where were the changing rooms about.

JM: I think they, were they not round about?

SS: Yea, they were, uhuh.

JW: Uhuh, I think they were. Which must have been freezing as well.

JM: Ah don't remember anything about the swimming lessons...

JW: I do.

JM: ...but I remember sitting up on the seats looking down onto the beach and there was a dead dog.

S: A dead, oh I remember that. Ah thought it was a cat, but-.

JW: Do you remember Ruby?

SS: Yes.

JW: I think Ruby was a fantastic swimmer, if I remember rightly.

SS: Oh, Ah don't know.

JW: Ah'm sure she could swim really well. That was the other feature we had when we were at school, didn't we?

SS: Oh, of course.

JW: We had children who were in the Home who came to school.

JM: Ah was just thinking that, actually, we haven't touched on that, Home children.

JW: Yea, and well, one of the things I remember about that is

Running time: 72.00

JW: having a birthday party an ma mum inviting children and Ah think there were three little girls from the Home came...

JM: Yes.

JW: ...in their school uniforms and all they wanted to do was sit on my dad's knee.

SS: Aw.

JM: But, the Home, what was your recollection of, why were the children in the Home? Were they...

JW: I presume we, if I'd, if we thought, if we thought about it Ah-.

JM: Were they orphans?

JW: Well, they weren't orphans I don't think, but they might have been orphans.

JM: Yea.

JW: Ah suppose at our age-.

SS: It don't think it, Ah don't think it, it wasn't called an orphanage as such.

JW: No, it wasn't, it was called a Home. An Ah know that, there was a couple that were friends with ma mum and dad and then they were obviously help-, you know, they used to have a little girl to visit from the home and she used to call the aunty and uncle, but, of course, obviously they weren't but I didn't understand that at the time. I used to think 'Why on earth is that little girl living in that Home when she's got an aunty and uncle?' You know, out living in Haddington.

JW: Yea, but Ah don't think-.

JM: But there was Tenterfield and Templedean.

JW: Yes.

JM: So, was Templedean just girls and Tenterfield was mixed?

JW: Yes.

JM: Cause one of them had a kind of uniform, I seem to remember, it was a navy pinafore...

SS: A sort of dark navy.

JW: Yes.

JM: ...and it had a blue and white woven belt.

SS: The belt-.

JW: Don't remember.

JM: And was Tenterfield a mixed one.

JW: Yes, because Ah rem- there were boys there, Ah think, as well.

JM: But you don't remember why children, because obviously-?

JW: Well, presumably, there would be a lot of, you know, if a woman got pregnant like the same age as ma mother's, if you weren't going to be married, you would be a, quite a determined person to keep your own child

Running time: 74.00

JW: at that point. Ah think there was quite a lot of stigma.

JM: So, I wonder if they saw families at all or if it was-.

JW: Some of the girls, I remember that by the time Ah was a bit older, and there were girls in [?]'s year and they did see, Ah think, maybe no mother and father was away at sea or something, you know. So, and couldn't keep them so-

JM: But Ah do remember Home children in the class and then one or two of them disappeared...

JW: Yes.

JM: ...to different places?

SS: I think, I think a wee girl died, as well. Ah can't remember her name.

JM: I think you're right.

JW: Was it long blond hair?

SS: No, she had...

JW: Oh right.

SS: ...she was very small and she had blond hair and she-

JW: Ok.

JM: I think she might be in a photograph Ah've got...

JW: Yea.

SS: Oh right.

JM: ...possibly.

SS: She died and Ah can remember at school being told this, Ah don't know in an official way...

JW: Yea, I think you're right.

SS: ...but Ah think the story, that we were told, is she had fallen out of bed.

JW: Oh, Ah don't remember that.

SS: Ah can remember that.

JM: Ah think you're right, yes.

SS: And she was friends of R-, she was friends with Ruby.

JW: Ah right, ok. Ah do remember us-

JM: There were a lot of children weren't there?

JW: Oh, there were. And well, presumably, eventually they tried to foster or adopt, have them adopted so that they were moved out of those...

JM: Yea.

JW: ...big places. Do you know the other thing Ah was remembering was that in that little, in the infant school assembly hall, we used to sit there in rows and we used to sing. You now, there was a service and the minister used to sometimes come.

SS: Mr Ritchie.

JW: Yep, and another time, well, Mr Murdie would sometimes come and speak. But I remember this one particular day and we must have been sitting facing the light and Mr Murdie must have been talking, we'd been looking at him and then we had, it was 'Let us pray' so of course you shut your eyes and

Running time: 76.00

JW: of course, when Ah opened my eyes Ah could see this funny shadow so Ah thought 'Well that must be God' because, you know, *[laughter]* who else could it possibly be? But you know, it was very matter of fact because Ah never really said anything to anybody *[laughter]* just thought 'Well that must be God because-'

SS: 'Just drop into assembly here.'

JW: It was obviously Mr Murdie's, you know the impression of Mr Murdie on my retina *[laughter]*. Oh, dear.

JM: Well, do you think we should maybe leave it there? We've gone from pre-school right through to the start of King's Meadow?

JW: Yep.

JM: And covered the school years and the home years and lunches and everything in between.

JW: Ah think so.

JM: So, I think we've done very well.

SS: Mm.

JW: Yep.

JM: So, thank you very much for that and I'll stop the tape, just now.

JW: Thank you.

Running time: 77.00