

Interviewee(s): Anne Robertson (AR)	Interviewer(s): Shirley Swinton (SS)
Date of Interview: 11 September 2019	Ref: EL15-5-1-1-T
REGION	East Lothian
TOWN/VILLAGE	Ormiston

SUMMARY	<i>Anne Robertson talks to Shirley Swinton about her life. They discuss growing up on the Archerfield Estate and her father's work as a farmworker on the estate. Anne talks about watching her father working during the harvest, and the long hours he would keep as a farmworker at this time. She discusses going to primary school in Dirleton and walking to and from school through the Archerfield Estate. They also talk about what Archerfield was like before the golf course. Anne then discusses leaving school and her intentions to go to university, which were waylaid by starting a family. She also talks about returning to education afterwards to get a teaching degree, and her subsequent teaching jobs. Finally, they discuss family and extended family.</i>
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Keywords: Background; Dirleton Primary School; Archerfield Estate; Harvest; Farming; Life After School; Teaching; Macmerry Primary School; Family; Extended Family; Anne's Father's Injury.

Background – 0h 00m 00s

SS: Right. This is Shirley Swinton. I'm interviewing Anne Robertson in her house in [REDACTED], Pencaitland and it is Wednesday, the 11th of September. So, Anne, would you like to start by introducing yourself with your full name, age, date of birth, where you were born and places that you have lived?

AR: Hello, my name's Anne Robertson. I'm sixty-one years old; I was born on the 6th of July, 1958 in the Vert Hospital in Haddington. I had lived nearly all of my life, until I was married anyway, well, I did live all of my life until I was married, in Archerfield Estate in East Lothian. I was one of eight children – number six out of eight. So, a big family too.

SS: Ok.

AR: I was very fortunate to be brought up on a lovely farm, at the time. I went to Dirleton Primary School, from the age of four and a bit [*laughter*]. Eh, yes. The headmaster came and asked my mum if I could come to school a bit earlier because there were only- there was only one other little boy to start school. His name was Johnny Morris. Em, and I was to start early so that they could have two children in the class.

SS: In primary one?

AR: In primary one. Yes.

SS: Ok.

AR: They were composite classes in those days, I suppose, but...

SS: And that means where two, or three, groups- age groups-

AR: Yeah. In fact, I think we might have been even primary one, two, three and four in...

SS: Wow, that's quite- uhuh.

AR: And our teacher was Miss McCallan, who was a lovely, lovely lady. I think she would've been an inspiration for anybody. She was a wonderful teacher and a lovely lady.

SS: Ahh.

AR: And I had kind memories. The headmaster, on the other hand... Was not such a kind soul [laughter].

Dirleton Primary School – 0h 02m 03s

SS: [laughter] Who was he, Anne?

AR: I can't remember, what was his name... Robert Monaghan.

SS: Monaghan?

AR: Monaghan.

SS: Aw, right. Ok.

AR: Yeah, he was the headmaster for a very long time. And he *was* the headmaster in those days.

SS: In that term?

AR: Yeah, yeah. Yes.

SS: That sort of gender specific term?

AR: Oh, very, very much. Yes, the headmaster.

SS: Did he teach, Anne?

AR: He did.

SS: So-

AR: Yeah, he did teach. Eh, I don't think there was such a thing as non-teaching roles then.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: I mean, maybe in a big, big school but I'm not sure... Eh, if there was then. No, he was very strict and, em... He just... Well. He had a law unto himself, I think. His brother was the headteacher at- or the deputy head at North Berwick High School at the same time.

SS: Oh.

AR: Both of them.

SS: At North Berwick High?

AR: At North Berwick High, yeah.

SS: Oh, that's interesting. Just with you saying that and asking that question if he taught and what you were saying about non-teaching, when I went to school at Haddington Infant School, in primary three the headteacher taught us.

AR: Mmhm.

SS: Miss Petrie. But she had- that's when we went to school all day on a Friday-

AR: Oh right.

SS: A Friday afternoon...

AR: She would-?

SS: She would go and we would have a supply teacher.

AR: Oh right.

SS: So, she had-

AR: Yeah.

SS: -a whole afternoon to...

AR: Mmhm.

SS: Do what she had to do.

AR: Yeah, yeah.

SS: That's- yeah. Em, so, just getting back to Archerfield Estate. Can you describe where that is, Anne?

AR: Archerfield Estate is between Gullane and Dirleton, in East Lothian.

SS: Mmhm.

AR: It's quite a large arable farm. Mostly arable. They had some bullocks and things in the winter to fatten up and then they were sold on to market, and part of the estate was also a breeding stud for racehorses. So, that was right at our house, the studs.

Archerfield Estate – 0h 04m 02s

SS: Oh really?

AR: Yeah.

SS: So, stables and-?

AR: There were stables there, yeah.

SS: Mmhm.

AR: And the stallions and all the mares would come in – racehorsing mares to breed there.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: So, it was- yeah.

SS: So, how come you lived there? What was the reason for-?

AR: My dad worked on the estate. My dad was a farmworker, I suppose, a tractor man on the estate.

SS: Ok... So, and you say that you're one of eight children?

AR: I was. One of eight. I'm number six, so there was two younger ones came along after me.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: There's about twelve, thirteen years between my eldest sister and me. So, that was quite a big...

SS: Quite a gap.

AR: Gap.

SS: And quite- obviously a big family. So, what was your house like?

AR: It wasn't a big house. In fact, to begin with we lived in a- when I was first born, the farmhouse that we lived in was just two bedrooms and so, that was five children and two adults in two bedrooms. But soon after that they moved to a bigger house-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -which had... I'm just trying to count now... One, two, three- five bedrooms.

SS: And was that also on the estate?

AR: Yes, just-

SS: So, they were sort of estate houses?

AR: Yeah, yeah, just farm- tied houses.

SS: Owned by the farmer and tied?

AR: Yes, yeah.

SS: Yeah.

AR: And in those days the farm was owned by Robert Mitchell... Who was the local landlord, if ye like.

SS: Mmhm.

AR: he lived on the estate in those days, down in the Marine Villa which overlooked- if ye walk along the coast, ye can still see Marine Villa. It's now part of the very... Posh golf course that's there now.

SS: Oh right, Marine Villa?

AR: Marine Villa. So, they lived there. Nice- yeah, yeah. They had children as well, so we were- we used to play wi them and things.

SS: I was just thinking that. Nowadays, if ye walk in Archerfield Estate, ye see the golf course and the park and the fairy garden and the...

0h 06m 03s

AR: Yes, I know.

SS: The... What's it called? The café? The restaurant?

AR: The Walled Garden.

SS: The Walled Garden restaurant. And it's all very peaceful.

AR: Yes. Ahh, well, yeah.

SS: I imagine it would've been quite different though.

AR: Well, it was different but it was peaceful as well.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: And I think, ye know, I mean, we were really lucky, the freedom that we had. And that's like every child, ye don't appreciate it at the time.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: But when I look back on it, ye know, the seasons o the year, the walks with my dad who we just knew and all the nature things. We were brought up, we knew the names of the trees; we knew the flowers; we knew where to go and pick the best primroses at the right time of year-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -where the white violets grew on the estate, ye know? Cowslips. There wasn't many cowslips.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: All of those things were just... There. It was just natural to us.

SS: Part of life.

AR: Ye know, as an adult, if I go for a walk with other adults and I'll say 'oh, it's an oak tree', it's a- and they're like 'well, how do ye know?'

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And I actually don't know how I know, except my dad told us when we were out.

SS: And that that's what it is?

AR: Ye know? So, we were always brought up with all of the nature around us and we had great fun wi that, but... And of course, there were the no-nos: don't go near the ponds. The bottom pond especially, we had a little island in the middle.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: So, you were always attracted to try and get on that island. But it was very muddy.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: If ye fell in [*laughter*]. But yeah, the ponds were there, they were a no-no. We were also brought up to respect the farmers' crops and things.

SS: Right, ok.

AR: We would never have walked through a field that was sown with anything or that.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh, uhuh.

AR: Ye know, if I see anybody nowadays, I think oh my goodness don't do that! But I just wouldn't have done it, ye know. Harvest. I love harvest-time.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: I used to come home from school and my dad would work the whole day, ye know, and my mum would have his tea ready.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: He'd already had his lunch in the field. He would have his tea in a bag and I would get my tea in the bag and go and find him. We would get into the- on the back o the trailer-

SS: Uhuh?

AR: -in the tractor. Health and safety wasn't an issue then. And go down to the field and have our tea with Dad in the field, cause that was about the only time we saw him during harvest-time.

SS: I was about to ask that. It'd be a-

AR: Ye didn't see him.

SS: -busy time.

AR: Sometimes it was eight o' clock, nine o' clock, ten o' clock, before he'd come home. So, some nights we didn't see him.

SS: And that was from-?

AR: From eight o' clock in the morning, as soon as they could be out.

SS: Uhuh?

AR: Cause they had- they would have to dry the grain from the day before, before they could go and cut more and... Yeah, all o those things. And I just loved it. I remember one occasion, Dad and I had had our tea and I was sitting on- there was a little hill at the side o the field, down... And my brother and I were sitting watching Dad cut the field, and the next thing was a whole lot of smoke came out of the back of the combine.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And I can remember screaming across that field, telling him, because that combine had actually gone on fire. Sometimes there would be a build up o the chaff and things-

SS: Right, uhuh.

AR: -at the back, where the straw comes out.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: And somehow, the friction had caused a fire in the combine. So, that was really terrifying because we were away down the bottom o the farm. It was a long way to get any help or anything.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: So, I mean, they just had to leave it really.

SS: Uhuh, and just-

AR: To just get away from it and stay away.

SS: -and just burn.

AR: Yeah, it was... That was a very frightening day, that.

SS: Well, that does sound...

AR: Plus, they don't- they didn't have a lot of money, the farmers didn't have a lot of money and things. I don't know how- I don't remember where the next combine came from or they must've borrowed a combine but, em... Yeah. That was a-

SS: So, the fields had to be cut?

AR: They had to be cut, yeah, and it was very arable, em, farm.

SS: Can you remember how many families worked on the estate?

0h 10m 06s

AR: There weren't many, actually.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: There was Bill Barber worked at- the tractor men, there were only three.

SS: Right.

AR: There were foresters, as well.

SS: Right.

AR: And my brother grew up to be a forester.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Eh, on the estate. So, there were- they looked after... I think the foresters probably came when the estate was sold to the Duke o Hamilton. Em, I don't know which year that was. And I think the foresters were probably employed as of then because he had other estates – he had Lennoxlove and Begbie and, eh... So, the foresters moved-

SS: So, were they working all the estates?

AR: They used to move around, yeah.

SS: Mm... Lennoxlove and Begbie.

AR: Yeah.

SS: That's out by Haddington, just-?

AR: It's up- sorry...

SS: Aye. Is it between Pencaitland and-?

AR: I don't... I'm not actually very sure where it is.

SS: I think... I can visualise-

AR: I know, yes.

SS: -the road that you come down and the little bridge that comes along a backroad-

AR: Yeah.

SS: -up to Samuelston, mebbe?

AR: Mebbe. I'm not 100% sure where it is.

SS: I think I've got a... But...

AR: I mean, I remember because they- ye know, the workers used to come from different estates.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: At particular times, especially the potato harvest.

SS: Oh right, uhuh.

AR: In Mitchell's day, on the potato harvest, you used to get this squad of Irish.

SS: Oh right, uhuh.

AR: At the- used to say the paddies, terrible. And I mean, the bothy that they lived in, it was just a derelict house.

SS: And it was on the estate?

AR: And, ye know, they would come and stay on the estate and... We weren't allowed to go down there cause they might have stolen my little brother [*laughter*]... On the pram [*laughter*].

SS: Is that what they-? Oh, gosh [*gasp*].

AR: We weren't supposed to but we did [*laughter*].

SS: So, they came to pick the potatoes?

AR: They came at- in the autumn for the potato picking, yeah.

SS: And have you any idea where- ye know, where they came from?

0h 12m 03s

AR: Well, I presume they just travelled around. I mean, they definitely had very Irish accents.

SS: Mmhm, mmhm.

AR: And the guy, the- sorta their gaffer was called Paddy.

SS: Mmhm.

AR: They called him Paddy. Big man. But he- they were very, very broad Irish accents.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: But I don't actually know where-

SS: Yeah.

AR: -exactly they came from, and then they would move round the farms and pick the potatoes cause it was done by hand.

SS: And they were all-? Were they all adults?

AR: No, there was children came as well.

SS: Children there as well, right.

AR: Yeah. No, there was a right mixture of people. No, there was quite- and there was young children, hence my mother saying they might steal the pram. So, I presume they just- and it was men and women. It wasn't just men. It was a mixed group, definitely.

SS: And did the children work in the fields?

AR: Yeah, they were all in the fields. They didn't go to school or...

SS: I was just- uhuh.

AR: No.

SS: No.

AR: They never went to school or anything. I mean, I think they were only there mebbe about two weeks at the most.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: I can't remember the exact time. But I remember, ye know, them being there in the fields and we weren't allowed to work in the- my dad wouldn't let us work in the fields. We werenae allowed to do that.

SS: Uhuh, no. Did other local children work in the fields either?

AR: No, no.

SS: No.

AR: No, not that I can remember.

SS: [?]

AR: No.

SS: Yeah.

AR: Maybe if they'd just brought that squad in and that was what... I mean, I suppose it's their living.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: For that. So, yeah.

SS: And they came every year?

AR: Yeah, for quite a few years.

SS: Was it the same people? Did you...?

AR: Definitely the one man was.

SS: Uhuh. He- the gaffer?

AR: Ye know. He was definitely the same person. I wouldn't say- cause we weren't... Ye know.

SS: Uhuh. It sounds like ye weren't encouraged to mix with them.

AR: No. We weren't encouraged to go down but we used to go down, especially at night, because they would have- they... It was a sort o quadrangle.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And they had a big fire in the middle.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: They used to have a fire and singing and things. So, we used to- we did go down.

0h 14m 01s

SS: Sounds quite exciting, actually.

AR: It was exciting.

SS: Yeah.

AR: But...

SS: No.

AR: Not for long.

SS: It was a no.

AR: If we got caught, we would've... Yeah [*laughter*]. But no, they came. And then, as I say, with the foresters, my brother became a forester on the estate.

SS: What was his name?

AR: Robert.

SS: That's your brother Robert. And he'd be Robert Scott?

AR: Yeah, he's Robert Scott. He was a forester. And Hugh Cummings, who still lives in North Berwick, was- he was the head forester... Em, at that time.

SS: Ok, so... And I'm just trying to think about the location of Archerfield and the location of your school.

AR: Yeah, it was about... To walk to the school was about mebbe a mile and a half.

SS: Right, ok.

AR: Thereabouts.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: We used to walk through the estate to get to the school. So, you wouldn't have come right round...

SS: Onto the road?

AR: Eh, onto the road.

SS: Right.

AR: No. Once we were older and went to North Berwick, we got a bus.

SS: Right.

AR: But when we were at Dirleton Primary we walked through the estate just to the school, which probably, yeah, about twenty minutes.

SS: Right, and you're talking about 'we', so that would be the children, your siblings?

AR: Yes, my brothers and sisters and other children on the estate.

SS: And any other children that were going?

AR: Yeah. I don't think there was anybody else the same age- well, there wasn't anybody else in my class.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: But there was ones the following year and obviously Robert, my brother, was in primary school when I started, so. Yeah, we walked through and then we'd take a short cut up through the woods if it wasn't muddy [*laughter*].

SS: [*laughter*] So, an adventure even before you got to school?

AR: Well, I suppose it was. I'd never- again, ye don't think because, ye know. It's like never- living on the estate and the farm, we never had streetlights. There was never, ye know-

SS: Ah right. Uhuh.

AR: -we've never had- I never had anywhere wi streetlights until I was married and left home. I'd never lived anywhere wi streetlights. And I wasn't afraid o the dark.

0h 16m 05s

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: I used to have friends in Gullane and I would walk home from Gullane along the main road and down through the estate on my own and never thought anything about it.

SS: And what age were ye when ye did that?

AR: In secondary school.

SS: In secondary school? Uhuh.

AR: Just in the beginning o secondary school but even when we were younger, I never...

SS: Never thought about it, just...

AR: Never thought anything of it.

SS: And obviously, your parents were quite comfortable with that idea, as well.

AR: Yeah, yeah, yeah. No, we did. Just quite happy.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: As we got older, sometimes we would get off the bus and meet Dad, ye know, coming out the pub [*laughter*] on a Friday night, and walk home with my dad.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: Or things. But normally...

SS: Uhuh?

AR: We were quite happy to go, ye know, guising at Halloween out in the dark and to the neighbours and ye just never thought anything of it.

SS: And when ye say 'guising', what do ye mean by 'guising'?

AR: Oh, I used to go round the doors and, eh, Mrs Barber was really good to go to cause she didn't have any children and she loved having us come.

SS: Aww.

AR: *[laughter]* And ye used to get really good sweets there *[laughter]*... And things because... Yeah. So. We used to get dressed up and we would be out away for a long time...

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: Singing and just having fun. It was great, the guising. And I think that's something, again, I look back at old photographs and I suppose there wasn't all the entertainment and things, and there's so many photographs of us all dressed up, doing concerts in the house and, ye know, all these sorta things.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: When visitors came, the dressing up box came out and we were- our cousins, and all dressed up and singing and dancing, and... Nonsense.

SS: Making your own entertainment.

AR: Yeah, we did, we did. I wasn't very good at it cause I was too shy but my sister was very good-

SS: Uhuh?

AR: -so that was alright *[laughter]*.

SS: *[laughter]* A talent.

AR: *[laughter]* She was talented, I wasn't. But no, we did, we had great fun. And again, I mean, ye just never even thought.

Oh 18m 04s

SS: Thought.

AR: Of going out in the dark. It was...

SS: Just part of...

AR: Yeah, it was.

SS: Life.

AR: Yes, yeah. In fact, diverting from when I was young a wee bit-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -when we did move into Dunbar-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And we had a- because actually, sorry, I did live in Archerfield until I was married.

SS: Oh right, uhuh.

AR: And then I moved to, em... I've forgotten what it's called now. Oh, Smeaton estate near East Linton.

SS: Oh right. Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: So again, it was still a farm cottage.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: With no streetlights or anything there. And then, after a few years, we moved into a police house in Dunbar.

SS: Right.

AR: And we had a golden Labrador at that time... And I remember going to walk out to my mother's one night, and taking the dog, and the dog was terrified o the shadows o the streetlights. The dog was hopeless [*laughter*]... And I'm never taking him out for a walk again [*laughter*]. He couldn't cope because his shadow was moving from- ye know, as ye come towards the streetlights, your shadow moves.

SS: Uhuh, it didn't like that. Aww, poor dog.

AR: The dog didn't like it.

SS: Ahh.

AR: Didn't like it.

SS: Now, you say a police house in Dunbar – where was it?

AR: In Lamer Street.

SS: At Lamer Street. And can ye explain what a police house was?

AR: They're, em- well, my husband was in the police and that was, I suppose, like a tied farm cottage. It was a tied police house.

SS: Right, so it's another- another...

AR: Yeah, it was a, em... It belonged to the police force in those days.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: You got to move in to there. So, it was really good.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: In fact, it was very good because it was all- I mean, we were quite a young married couple-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -and you got it all decorated and the cooker and all these sort of things.

SS: Wow.

AR: So, it was really good to have a police house in those days.

SS: So, quite a...?

AR: It was, yeah. It was. It was quite a good perk.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: But, I mean, it's not nowadays in the police.

SS: I don't think they... Well, they don't have them now.

AR: They don't, no.

SS: And to have them decorated...

AR: I know, it was, it was. Yeah. And the fact that the cooker belonged to them, ye know, if anything went wrong, they would come and fix it and things like that. So, it was great cause... I mean, we didn't- the police were ok pay.

Life After School – 0h 20m 12s

SS: Uhuh.

AR: But we just had one wage coming in.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: And, well, we had Scott and then Andrew, so we had two children so it was...

SS: That was...

AR: Ye know, it was a lot.

SS: Yeah. So, em... Do you want... After you went to school in Dirleton, you went to high school in North Berwick?

AR: In North Berwick, yeah.

SS: What did ye do when you left school?

AR: Well, when I left school I worked- well, while I was at school I worked in hotels-

SS: Right.

AR: -ye know?

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Just helping out and waitressing and things like that.

SS: Is that actually in North Berwick?

AR: Well, no, the Queen's Hotel- what was the Queen's-

SS: Oh!

AR: -in Gullane.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: To start with. And then the Open Arms.

SS: And that's in...?

AR: Dirleton.

SS: Dirleton. So that's-

AR: And the Open Arms was great. I loved working in the Open Arms.

SS: And that's while you were at school?

AR: That was while I was at school, yeah.

SS: Ok, and when ye left?

AR: And when I left school, I had a place at university to- at Queen Margaret's.

SS: Right.

AR: To do... Well, it was called Domestic Science in those days.

SS: Right, uhuh.

AR: With the intention of becoming a teacher.

SS: Right.

AR: A Domestic Science teacher.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: But, em... Unfortunately... Nature took a different course [*laughter*].

SS: [*laughter*] Oh right. It didn't quite pan out like that [*laughter*].

AR: [*laughter*] It didn't quite pan out. [*laughter*] I didn't make it; I had my family instead.

SS: So, sometimes-

AR: I got married and had a family, so.

SS: -the best laid plans...

AR: Oh no, I've never been good at planning, anyway [*laughter*]. Life has its own path.

SS: But of course, you later became a teacher.

AR: I did. Yes, I did.

SS: Tell me a bit wee about that.

AR: Well, when Brian was in the police, he was also studying Open University.

SS: Mmhm?

AR: So, he was constantly studying and when he'd finished our children were- by then, all at secondary school. So, I decided that, rather than have a break from anybody studying, I would apply to Moray House and see if I could, em... Do my teaching degree then.

Teaching – 0h 22m 15s

SS: Mmhm.

AR: And, eh, surprisingly I got in [laughter]. I mean, I had the qualifications from school but that was, ye know, a long time before.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: I'm trying to think how many years ago that was, before. Probably about fifteen years since I had studied. So, it was a big thing and I was amazed to get into Moray House. But I loved it.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: I enjoyed being at Moray House. Had some nice classmates [laughter]. No, but, eh... It was- yeah, I did enjoy it and... But then [laughter]...

SS: [laughter] Yes?

AR: By the end of the term- by the end of my four year degree, I also wasn't feeling very well and discovered that I was pregnant again [laughter]. I wasn't very good at this planning.

SS: [laughter] Oh dear.

AR: So, I now have a beautiful daughter and three sons, so. But, I went on to teach eventually.

SS: Uhuh?

AR: And there were a lot of similarities to Dirleton cause I taught at Macmerry.

SS: Right, ok. So, can we just go back for a wee minute-

AR: Mmhm.

SS: -before you go on to tell me about Macmerry. Moray House, now, that's located in...?

AR: In Edinburgh.

SS: And that's now part of Edinburgh University?

AR: Yes, it was but now- when we were there it was part of Heriot Watt.

SS: It stood alone.

AR: Yeah, well, it started to stand alone but our degree was in- my degree in the end is at Heriot Watt.

SS: Heriot Watt.

AR: And then it became part of Edinburgh University.

SS: Edinburgh University, that's right. And just for the listeners, we'll come clean [laughter]... Because we knew each other prior to this because Brian was in the police.

AR: Yeah.

0h 24m 00s

SS: I, myself, was in the police.

AR: You were in the police.

SS: And we knew other people who were in the police.

AR: Yeah.

SS: And by happy coincidence...

AR: Yes, yeah.

SS: A strange coincidence, we turn up at Moray House and find that...

AR: We're in the same year, I know. It was, it was surprising, really.

SS: I know, I know. And then-

AR: Yeah, it just shows ye.

SS: I always think when you're talking about Gail, your daughter-

AR: Yeah.

SS: -and I ended up teaching her at Pencaitland.

AR: Yeah, that's true. Yes, yeah.

SS: So, it's one of life's...

AR: I know. It's a small world, as they say, isn't it?

SS: That's right.

AR: A small world. Yes.

SS: So, Moray House.

AR: Yeah, and then when I graduated from Moray House, I had Gail and then I was on the- I think, after Gail was... I'm trying to think whether she was two or she maybe wasn't. About two.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: I was on the supply list for a while.

SS: Right. And what was the supply list?

AR: Em, so then I would be a relief teacher in various schools covering absences or whatever. You know, courses, different things.

SS: Mmhm.

AR: And to begin with, I only did one day a week.

SS: Right.

AR: But it was good and it was a good way to see the different schools in East Lothian and get to know a little bit about schools in East Lothian-

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: -and then you can, ye know, sorta see which kind of school you can see yourself teaching in.

SS: Ok, uhuh.

AR: If ye like. Because some of the bigger primary schools I found quite daunting.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And, em... It was strange; I wasn't used to that kind of community, that, ye know-

SS: Ahh, right.

AR: -there was almost a divide between the upper school and the lower school... And the infants.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And everybody was very in their departments, almost.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Whereas, I'd never experienced that, myself.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: So, it was a bit strange. So, I was quite glad that in the end I got a job in a small, rural school.

SS: In Macmerry.

AR: In Macmerry.

SS: Can you remember some of the schools that you taught in? Just to get an idea of how far...

0h 26m 05s

AR: I was in Pinkie, at, em...

SS: Musselburgh?

AR: At Musselburgh. And the Burgh at Musselburgh.

SS: Oh.

AR: Em, which was quite a difficult school again. I hadn't really experienced that kind of, eh... catchment [*laughter*].

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: The pupils were quite a handful and things.

SS: Right.

AR: I'm quite determined, so I thought 'well, they're children, they're not going to get the better of me'. I taught in Prestonpans for a little while.

SS: Was that both schools in Prestonpans... Or the upper?

AR: No, the upper.

SS: Upper.

AR: Yeah, the upper. The- when I was doing cover for the- at one point, all the teachers were on French courses.

SS: Oh right, uhuh.

AR: And I did cover one day a week at Yester Primary-

SS: Oh right, uhuh.

AR: -which I really liked.

SS: And that's in Gifford?

AR: In Gifford. At Yester, yeah. The primary four class, it was.

SS: And I know, Anne, how did ye travel?

AR: Well, I know- I don't drive.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: People are very kind [*laughter*]. People pick you up. Thankfully, eh... Some of them are on the bus route.

SS: Uhuh?

AR: With my husband working shifts, sometimes it worked well that he could either drop me off or pick me up.

SS: Mmhm.

AR: And then- and as I say, people are very, very kind and... It's amazing who you can get a lift from.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: Anybody!

SS: So, it was quite manageable?

AR: Yeah, yeah. I mean, I did worry about that and...

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Did think about learning to drive but I never actually got there.

SS: Got there.

AR: My husband said I wasn't a natural driver.

SS: Aww, Brian.

AR: So [*laughter*]. So, I never pursued it any further [*laughter*]. But no, it was amazing to get the lifts, actually.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And somehow, it just, ye know, worked. It was fine.

SS: How did ye manage with all the stuff that teachers seem to carry about?

0h 28m 00s

AR: I know. Well, with supply it wasn't so bad.

SS: As- uhuh.

AR: Because I did have- I used to have a bank of lessons that I would take in to schools and quite often teachers would leave ye a lesson.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: I can remember the Pillars of Islam-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -somebody left me once, Mrs Swinton [*laughter*]. And I thought oh, my goodness.

SS: I'm so sorry [*laughter*].

AR: I didn't know very much about the Pillars of Islam, in those days. But yeah, I managed. I mean, I used to have a fairly small collection of things that I would- could turn to, like a health type of topic or something like that.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: So, that you weren't interfering with the teacher's own plans-

SS: Right.

AR: -and if they hadn't left ye anything. So, it wasn't too bad and then, I used to try to do a lot at school or if I was getting a lift then I would bring the things home.

SS: Bring it home. Ok.

AR: So, that was fine.

SS: So, you- you get a job in Macmerry. Tell me about that.

AR: Yeah. I started in Macmerry again on supply, actually. Em, in the nursery.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Which I really enjoyed because that was the area that I particularly enjoyed.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: The infants and the nursery. So, I was delighted to start in the nursery there. And I was there for six months and the teacher decided she wasn't going to return to the job. So, the- I was interviewed and thankfully, I got the job in Macmerry. So, I was really pleased with that-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -because it was a nice little school; it reminded me a lot of Dirleton-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -it was a small rural community, a close community. Everybody knew each other and the grannies knew, ye know, and all of that.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: So, it was nice. And I was in the nursery with a very nice nursery nurse who lived in Haddington, Susan Walker, and she was very good at giving me a lift as well [*laughter*].

SS: Excellent. So, where did ye live at the time?

AR: Em, here.

SS: Here?

AR: I lived in Pencaitland by then.

SS: So, you were in Pencaitland at the time?

Macmerry Primary School – 0h 30m 00s

AR: Yes.

SS: So, she came to Pencaitland to pick you up then?

AR: Yes, she used to come from Haddington, and loop round that way.

SS: And then just drive round?

AR: Yeah.

SS: Aww, that was kind of her.

AR: And it's not far to Macmerry.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: But it's not on the bus route.

SS: Uhuh. And at that time, when would that be, Anne?

AR: Em, that was 1999.

SS: 1999.

AR: That I started in Macmerry.

SS: So...

AR: '98? '99.

SS: So, in '98/'99-

AR: Yeah?

SS: -what... How did the nursery operate? Was it fulltime, em...?

AR: No, the nur- the child- we had two groups.

SS: Right.

AR: The morning group were in from ten to nine till ten to twelve, or something like that.

SS: Ok.

AR: Ten past twelve? And then the afternoon group were in from quarter past one till quarter past three... Or roughly...

SS: Whenever. So, there were two different groups of children?

AR: But there were two groups. Twenty in each group. In theory. Although, in Macmerry, it was a small place, and the afternoon group wouldn't be up to full strength.

SS: Ahh.

AR: They wouldn't have twenty pupils.

SS: Ah, ok.

AR: But it could- the potential for twenty, twenty in the nursery.

SS: Uhuh. So, were all the children from Macmerry when you started?

AR: No, they weren't-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -because at that time Pencaitland, for instance, didn't have a nursery.

SS: Mmhm.

AR: So, quite a few children from Pencaitland came to Macmerry.

SS: Mm.

AR: Children from Tranent or Haddington even, whose parents were looking for a smaller rural school.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: We had children from both of those areas as well.

SS: Right. So, they could choose to-?

AR: They could- yeah. Nursery doesn't have a catchment.

SS: A catchment, yep.

AR: So, we did have different children there. But nice. Nice families, nice children. You know, it was a nice community. In fact, I remember just starting in the nursery and having an open evening and I think everybody came. I've never seen so many people come.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Which I was really surprised at.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Because nowadays, to get all the parents to come on a Parents' Day...

0h 32m 02s

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Is quite difficult sometimes.

SS: Right, uhuh.

AR: To catch them all. But every one of them were there that night-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -and it was lovely. And they were- because you were in the nursery, you made quite strong relationships with the parents, right from the start.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: And even now, when some of them are twenty-five and things, I still have relationships with those parents.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: And contact with those parents, ye know, and... Which is nice.

SS: And I suppose, in these circumstances, ye see the child growing up through school?

AR: Yeah, yes.

SS: And- uhuh.

AR: Yeah, yeah. Some of them are now graduated and it's quite amazing, really.

SS: And did you always work in the nursery or did you work in the school?

AR: No. After about eight- I was trying to remember that, actually, but about eight years I was in the nursery. Eight or nine years.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And then I moved into the school.

SS: Right.

AR: And I had a composite primary two-three to begin with.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: In the school. So, I- and I stayed there until I retired in the school, between- in the infant department.

SS: Right. So, you're infant- uhuh.

AR: Two-three. And I had a two-three-four at one point.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And then about four years ago, four years ago I think I had P1. So, I finished with the P1s in the end which was nice.

SS: Oh, that's quite a nice way to finish.

AR: Yeah.

SS: And did you, yourself, have nursery experience or any pre-school experience?

AR: No, no. No, nothing like that. Just playing [*laughter*].

SS: Just playing.

AR: Just playing.

SS: No, we didn't- and no, there wasn't anything. We went to church, we went to Sunday school...

SS: Uhuh?

AR: In Dirleton. But there wasn't any preschool education or anything. Yeah.

SS: So, that's interesting that you say the Sunday school. So, who- can you remember who ran that?

AR: Oh yeah, it was Miss Peggy Thompson... *[laughter]* Who ran the Sunday school for as long as I can remember, and then I actually became a Sunday school teacher as well.

SS: Oh right.

AR: In the end.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: For a little while.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: But, em, yeah, Peggy was the Sunday school teacher.

0h 34m 04s

SS: And did Peggy have a job?

AR: Yeah, I think-

SS: Or what was she in the community?

AR: Well, she'd actually come from North Berwick-

SS: Oh right.

AR: -which I was- which I don't actually know why she particularly came to Dirleton church.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Maybe she just liked the community there as well.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: I mean, you can choose that. But no, she worked in the laundry in North Berwick. Em, I remember that. And she was a very kind lady.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: She used to like to- em, she supported the Hibs-

SS: Right.

AR: -football team. And she took me, when I was a bit older, she took me to Edinburgh to watch a Hibs match.

SS: Oh.

AR: The one and only Hibs match I've ever watched, I'm not a rugby- a football fan at all. But, em, I do remember that.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And she would take ye- she liked having somebody to take into Edinburgh and go shopping and C & A's, I remember going to C & A's.

SS: Aww. On Princes Street.

AR: And- on Princes Street. And having your lunch in Patrick Thompson's, was it called? Patrick Thompson's, I think.

SS: Was that up the Bridges?

AR: I don't know. I can't... I think it was Patrick Thompson's.

SS: Or was there a- also one on Princes Street where Topshop is now?

AR: Yeah, there was something there. I think it was in about there.

SS: Uhuh, there was a- aye, there was a department-

AR: Yes.

SS: -store there but I can't...

AR: And getting taken out for your lunch was something, I mean we didn't- we didn't-

SS: Wow, in Edinburgh.

AR: No. We only left Archer- when we were young, we went to my granny's and Prestonpans. I had a great-aunt in Musselburgh and that was a big adventure. And I can remember once going to the zoo-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -in the bus from Archerfield, which was a long haul. But we didn't really go to Edinburgh.

SS: And I was- when you were talking about, ye know, visiting – was that by bus?

AR: Yes.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Yeah, we didn't have a car. People came to visit us with cars-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -but a lot of people still came on the bus...

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: As well. And in those days, ye didn't know they were coming. They would just appear, if ye like, because we didn't have a telephone or anything, ye know, so... If it was a nice day, and I had a lot of cousins from Dunbar, they used to come on a Sunday and we'd all go to the beach.

0h 36m 15s

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Or whatever. But ye didn't know if they were going to come or not, ye know, they just arrived.

SS: And did they expect...?

AR: Well, my mum was very good at... Food just went a mile [*laughter*]. When my mum and dad had their diamond wedding, they had a memories book and somebody said that they just put another cup o water in the soup, or another cup o water in the mince and it, ye know...

SS: It went further.

AR: And Sunday dinner... Sunday lunch was a proper dinner but Sunday teatime was always either macaroni cheese-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -which would go a long way-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -or sausage and onion pie. That was my mother's speciality.

SS: Was it?

AR: I have to say I didn't like it all...

SS: Aww [*laughter*].

AR: But everybody still raves about Mum's sausage and onion pie, but I didn't enjoy it. So, I think these were kinda meals that you could spin out a bit-

SS: Spin out, uhuh.

AR: But, em... No, there was always enough food.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Ye know, people just arrived.

SS: And they... Uhuh.

AR: And they were always arriving... At some point, ye know.

SS: And what sort of things, when they arrived, what did ye do with them?

AR: Well, we used to go to the beach.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: We'd walk down through the estate and that would be everything went, including the pots wi the potatoes and the mince and tatties and everything. And once we got to the beach, my dad would light a fire and they would cook the potatoes- well, I don't know if the potatoes were already cooked and they maybe heated them up.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: But we had- we used to have things like that. We didn't have sandwiches-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -and that for a picnic. And we would go and gather whelks.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And we'd cook the whelks. And everybody used to have their pin attached-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -so that you could pull the whelks out. Everybody had your own pin.

SS: Come prepared.

AR: You brought your pin [*laughter*]... For the whelks, and my dad- there was an old pot that was hidden in the sand dune, cause we always went to the same bit on the beach.

The Beach – 0h 38m 05s

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: And, eh... The pot was there and cook the whelks and then we would sit round the fire and eat the whelks as well. But it was- yeah, it was great. We had lovely times on the beach and huge family times on the beach.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Learned to swim in the sea which... Ye know, was pretty good. My mum could swim, my dad couldn't swim, but my mum could. So, we were really lucky in all those things.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Ye know?

SS: What was your mum and dad's name, Anne?

AR: Eh, my mum's name, well, she was called Lily but her name was Elizabeth [*laughter*]. Eh, and my dad's name was James.

SS: Lily, would that be L-I...

AR: L-Y.

SS: L-Y. And James. Well, they sound very adaptable people.

AR: I know, I think it was just... Do ye know, another thing that I really- I was reflecting on, if ye like.

SS: Uhuh?

AR: We were brought up, there were Austrian people beside us.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: When-

SS: On the estate?

AR: On the estate, that lived in the house next door. We had, ye know, if ye like, we were the farm workers but the farm owners were people that we talked to freely. So, there was no difference in that class.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: Em, we were never made to feel that we couldn't talk to them.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: In fact, the Duke o Hamilton was our neighbour for long enough.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And the Duchess. In the days gone by. And it was all very free.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And then we had... The Uganda-Asians when they were all expelled from Uganda. There- a family were put in one of the cottages there.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And Mrs Patel, I remember the beautiful saris she had and she couldn't speak very much English. Her husband was- had had a good job in Uganda-

SS: Mmhm.

AR: -and he spoke English, but she didn't. And I remember her dressing us in these beautiful saris-

0h 40m 03s

SS: Wow.

AR: -that we'd never seen anything like it.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: So, right from the beginning, I think we were... We were never made to feel that anybody was any different.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: Maybe that's a reflection of ma own family now but, ye know, everybody was the same-

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: -with my mum especially, ye know. Well, my dad as well. And so, we... We didn't have a lot. We didn't have a huge lot of wide experiences.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: But somehow when I look back now, I think, ye know, we were really, really lucky because the way that my mum did accept everybody – or my dad as well – both of them but...

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Ye know, was something really special.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And I think we probably didn't realise it at the time at all, that that was... Cause nowadays, unfortunately there's too much racism and everything else.

SS: Uhuh, and difference...

AR: And we never even gave it a thought, ye know...

SS: So-

AR: When people were different.

SS: The Austrian- was it a family? Can you remember?

AR: There were two families, actually. There was one, the [Richters?]. I don't know how- I can't remember how ye spell it now. Richter?

SS: Richter?

AR: Yeah. So, that was Margaret and Ernie Richter.

SS: Mmhm.

AR: And they were a lovely family. They had children.

SS: And were they both Austrian?

AR: Yes.

SS: So, how come they were in Dirleton?

AR: They- well, he – Ernie – he was, I think he was working on the farms over here.

SS: Right.

AR: And he... when the war started, they were- is it interned? Is that what they say? Yeah?

SS: Uhuh, I think- yes.

AR: They were interned, the Austrian people.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And then after the war, he went back to Austria and obviously married and came back seemingly, so.

SS: Oh.

AR: I mean, that was before my time.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: I only knew them-

SS: So, this is just a story that you've been told?

AR: Yeah, that we've been told. And then the other ones were the- Paul [Bungartner? Baumgartner?]. They lived in the- I know, I can't...

SS: Bongartner?

AR: Bung, yeah. Bung, Bung-gartner. I don't know how you spell it to be honest.

Family / Extended Family – 0h 42m 02s

SS: I'll- yeah.

AR: Yeah, you'd need to look that up.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: He- him and his wife, they lived in the lodge house. Paul and Molly.

SS: And what brought them here?

AR: Well, I don't actually know so much. Again, he worked on the farm so I presume that's what it was.

SS: Mmhm.

AR: But he was... I think that he was German. I'm not so sure that he was Austrian.

SS: Ahh, right. Ok. Maybe.

AR: Maybe. But I'm not totally sure about that...

SS: Uhuh.

AR: What he was. They had a daughter, Elizabeth, who was the same age as us, so.

SS: Oh right.

AR: In that house. They lived there for a while... As well.

SS: So, lots of people... Different backgrounds?

AR: Yeah, yeah.

SS: Or from different countries? And just coming, going...?

AR: Yeah, just accepted.

SS: Just that.

AR: Ye know?

SS: And as you say... And now, you mentioned- you said that's a reflection on your family now? Go and tell me a bit about your family.

AR: There- Well- well, I have three sons. My-

SS: Uhuh, and who are they again?

AR: Scott, who's married to Yvonne and she's African, black African. And Andrew... Whose partner is Claire but she's Scottish.

SS: Mmhm.

AR: Then we have Ewan, who was married to an Italian. And Gail is married to a Pakistani.

SS: So, quite a diverse family.

AR: So, we have... Yes. It's a bit like the United Nations sometimes. So, yes. And of course, because ye have these extended families now as well-

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: -the culture and... Especially the Pakistani culture is, em- was all quite new...

SS: Uhuh.

AR: *[laughter]* For us. And it was very new for them, actually.

SS: Uhuh. So, how did-?

AR: Well, Gail and Aman were friends from school-

0h 44m 00s

SS: Right.

AR: -and they... When they decided they were gonna get married, Gail and Aman, the Pakistani side of the family had never had anyone marry outwith their culture at all.

SS: Right, ok.

AR: So, there were a few barriers to begin with.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: But eventually, we got there.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And it's quite funny now when we look at it because one of the barriers is, with the Muslim men...

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And a strange woman, as in me, is not even supposed to shake their hands.

SS: Right, yes.

AR: Some of the old- the old ones, not the younger ones.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And I'm a very huggy person, so that was quite an experience for them alone.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: That this woman was going to come and hug them whether they liked it or not *[laughter]*. And actually, now they're ok.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: They'll say, 'it's ok, you can hug me'.

SS: Uhuh, aww. So, they'll know you now.

AR: They know. Yes.

SS: And as you say, people do-

AR: Yeah.

SS: -put up barriers no matter who and...

AR: Mmhm.

SS: Because they're meeting different people.

AR: Yes, yeah. But that's been a- quite a steep learning curve.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: And it's amazing though, how accepting it's- it all has become.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: So...

SS: So, you'll be quite glad that I left you that lesson all these years ago.

AR: I know, that's it. I know all about the Pillars of Islam.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: *[laughter]* Yeah, no. But-

SS: And where-

AR: -the wider family all- is all drawn in now.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Ye know, so it's quite amazing.

SS: So, Gail's husband went to school-

AR: With Gail.

SS: -here then?

AR: Yes, yeah, he's second gen.

SS: Sorry.

AR: Yeah, his mother was born in this country.

SS: Ah, right.

AR: He's not- yeah, he's just- his father was born in Pakistan but his mum is- she was-

SS: Is she Scottish-Pakistani or is she-?

AR: No, she's English. Huddersfield area.

SS: Oh right, so she's English. Aye.

AR: She's English Pakistani... And then, his dad was Pakistani from near Lahore.

SS: Ok. Right.

AR: But, eh... Yeah, so it's... Yeah. And the granny, ye know, the wee old granny and things-

0h 46m 04s

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -it's quite funny. When we had the wedding pictures, when ye look at the picture of Gail's granny who looks a bit like Her Majesty the Queen, ye know, in the nice suit and everything and then the nanny with the wee sari and everything.

SS: Oh lovely.

AR: It's just...

SS: Uhuh.

AR: They couldn't be more opposites.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: But it's lovely to see that, as well.

SS: That's lovely.

AR: So, yeah, and I do think part of that was from, ye know, my upbringing that...

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Well, not- I mean, obviously I couldn't choose the children's- my own children's partners but I think they probably had that acceptance, as well.

SS: Of people, uhuh. Tell me about Scott and Yvonne.

AR: Well, I remember-

SS: Where's Yvonne actually from?

AR: Yvonne? Well, she's originally from Zambia.

SS: Right.

AR: But she's been in this country since she was about three. And I remember Scott, at about seventeen, coming home and saying 'Mum, I've seen this lovely girl and I really, really like her'.

SS: Mmhm.

AR: 'But she's black, what do you think?', ye know.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: And he thought she was just the bee's knees.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And I was like, well, it doesn't make any difference what- if that's what you want, that's fine.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Ye know. So, and it was quite strange for the older- even for grandparents and things-

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: Who maybe hadn't had as much experience with different cultures and things.

SS: People of different cultures.

AR: So, yeah. So, Yvonne is- she's very black.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And her mum is very black, too.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And we had two babies-

SS: So, you've met their parents?

AR: Yeah, yeah.

SS: Sorry, I cut you off there. You were about to say about your grandchildren?

AR: No, no it's ok. No, no, I was just saying and then- yeah, we have all these lovely...

SS: Uhuh. How many grandchildren have ye got?

AR: I have six grandchildren now.

SS: [*gasp*] Wow.

AR: Yeah.

SS: Gosh, that's quite a wee...

AR: Yes, it is. It's a good...

SS: Uhuh, a little collection.

AR: A good collection.

SS: Ahh.

AR: And they're lovely. And they are lovely. Although, I would have liked a redhaired one but I don't think that's gonna happen with the pairings that we've got.

0h 48m 00s

SS: Of course, you've got [*laughter*]... Aw, you never know.

AR: You never know.

SS: They're sort of... Recessive genes and...

AR: Ye never know. Well... No. Yeah. I think it's...

SS: Cause Gail's got lovely red hair.

AR: Yeah, and so had Scott, so.

SS: Uhuh, yeah.

AR: No, I haven't got one with red hair.

SS: So, quite a.

AR: Plenty curls [*laughter*].

SS: As we can see from your graduation photo here...

AR: Oh that was... Oh no...

SS: Which we've got.

AR: The days of the perm. I think that's it, yeah.

SS: So, when was that? Would that be...?

AR: '94.

SS: 1994.

AR: Yeah.

SS: And then you're graduating with your degree, Bachelor of Education.

AR: My mum and dad very pleased, the first person out of the eight of us to get a degree. Actually, I don't think anybody else has since.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: They have other qualifications-

SS: Yeah, uhuh.

AR: -but nobody else has a degree.

SS: Uhuh. That's a lovely photograph. You're standing in your graduation gown.

AR: Yeah.

SS: You've got your...

AR: Scroll.

SS: Your scroll in your hand and your mum and dad looking on behind.

AR: Yeah, and it was a big day for them, I think, too. They- they really enjoyed it. And my dad had had a stroke by then, so he wasn't terribly mobile.

SS: Ahh. Uhuh.

AR: But, em... But he still wanted to be there, so it was nice.

SS: Yeah. Aww. And I think you've got some other photos, if ye wanted to...

AR: Well, just the one.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: When I was in P1.

SS: Oh right. Yes.

AR: Do ye want...?

SS: Yeah.

AR: Well, I've gone again... Oh no. With my brother.

SS: Ok, can you describe this photo that we're looking at?

AR: I know. Well, they're, em- my brother and I, I think I'm five, I'm just primary one-

SS: Mhm.

AR: -from what I can remember and looking very smart in my hand-knitted jumper and my kilt and probably hand-knitted socks, as well. And my brother is about ten...

SS: Uhuh.

AR: In that, so primary six or seven he was in there, and he looks very smart in his kilt as well and he's even got a jacket. Part of that is because my granny liked all of these things and she was very good at charity shops, as well [*laughter*].

0h 50m 06s

SS: Uhuh [*laughter*].

AR: So, I think that's where the... Or second jumble sales or whatever but...

SS: Uhuh.

AR: I think my kilt was the MacDonald's tartan.

SS: I was- uhuh.

AR: But Robert's was a Scott tartan, I think.

SS: Ahh, right. Ok.

AR: But, eh, we did have a bit of both cause my mother was a MacDonald, so.

SS: Ahh, right.

AR: So, we used to have either tartan.

SS: So, who knitted your jumper?

AR: Em, my mum would've knitted the jumpers.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: She knitted- as far as I can remember, she always knitted things.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And she's quite funny cause laterally she used to, I think [*laughter*]... Look upon herself as a bit of a designer knitter, shall we say. My eldest son, Scott, used to say 'my granny can't knit a jumper all the same colour anymore' [*laughter*]. So, you would get stripes or she would knit squares and sew them together and then embroider on them and...

SS: Oh wow [*impressed sound*].

AR: Oh, they were, they were 'wow'.

SS: Freestyling, I think [*laughter*].

AR: [*laughter*] Yeah, freestyling. And the children used to laugh at all of those...

SS: So, did she continue to knit for your children?

AR: Yeah, she always knitted and crocheted.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Always, as far as I can remember. I don't ever remember her not having knitting on the go. And I remember, ye know, having a knitted suit for Sunday school and my sister and I, there's only eighteen months between us, and we were usually dressed the same.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: So, we did have- including knitted tights and everything. I mean, hey were just awful.

SS: [*whispers*] Tights [*laughter*]!

AR: I know [*laughter*]. They were! And cable, on the tights.

SS: Cable? Oh my. You would've been warm.

AR: Not just- oh, they would be warm, yeah. The church was cold on a Sunday [*laughter*]. But yes, these things... So, yeah.

SS: So, is this photograph...? Would it be- would that be, the kilts, your Sunday best?

AR: Oh, definitely.

SS: For the school photographs?

AR: Definitely, yes. Yes, because we didn't wear a uniform to school.

0h 52m 02s

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Although, my mum always liked us to be smart, ye know?

SS: Uhuh.

AR: But she- we didn't have a uniform. But, em... Yes, yeah, I don't think my brother often wore a shirt and tie... Other than his Sunday best but... And that was taken outside the school...

SS: Uhuh.

AR: We have got other ones that you can see the nice windows at the school-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -but this one's just the wall.

SS: Just against the stonework.

AR: The stonework, which was nice.

SS: It's a nice background.

AR: And it's black and white. It is a nice actually.

SS: It is, that's a lovely photograph.

AR: Yeah, it is. I didn't like it; that's why I look so shy.

SS: It's what's happening.

AR: I know, I know. Don't take my picture.

SS: Aww [*laughter*].

AR: [*laughter*] But that was it. In fact, there- we had a very- my mum had an uncle who came from Canada and- or who lived in Canada.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And he used to come and visit us. And when I got married, he wrote a poem for me and it said, in one of the lines of the poem, it says 'And Anne Scott, a wee lassie who didnae like her picture taen'.

SS: Aww, so he-

AR: Even in the poem.

SS: He had the measure.

AR: He had the measure. Yeah, I used to hide rather than have a picture taken but... Thankfully I'm in some, to remember.

SS: Lovely.

AR: But yes. And I think, too, because we were a big family and closeness, I don't ever remember having photographs of just me. They're always-

SS: Just on your own. There's always somebody else?

AR: They're always with my brothers and sisters and things. And even now, we insist on having family photographs with the eight of us together.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And we have to stand in order from the youngest up to the oldest.

SS: Aww, that's lovely [*laughter*].

AR: Still [*laughter*]. Still we do it [*laughter*].

SS: Now, you showed me a picture of your dad on a tractor?

AR: Oh yeah... This one, yeah.

SS: So, can ye describe this photograph?

AR: Well, em... This tractor, it- well, this is a photograph of my dad at work and on the trailer at the back is my eldest sister.

0h 54m 08s

SS: Uhuh?

AR: Em, and then the next- yeah, two sisters and two brothers.

SS: Right.

AR: All older. No, actually, it's not the very oldest one, she'd not there. Outside the sheds.

SS: Right.

AR: Now, these big sheds were used for storage a lot of the time.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And actually, these sheds are on the site of what now is the very nice restaurant, The Walled Garden, in Archerfield.

SS: Right. So, you can see the wall behind?

AR: The wall there. And this was all demolished.

SS: Right.

AR: In fact, that was demolished even when we were still living in Archerfield-

SS: Right.

AR: -these sheds. But in there, there was- all sorts of things were stored in there. Just straw sometimes.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: The tractors, different things were in there.

SS: They've got a glass roof, I see?

AR: Yeah, they have got glass roofs.

SS: Yeah.

AR: So, they could've been part of the gardens because the walled garden had greenhouses and things in it.

SS: Oh right, uhuh.

AR: From way, way back.

SS: Right.

AR: Ye know? So, I don't know... *[exhales]* Why that was there.

SS: What they were for.

AR: It was there for a long time.

SS: Because I see also these little...

AR: The logs. I think these are-

SS: Are they not like these wooden...

AR: Crates.

SS: Crates for fruits or...?

AR: For the... Potatoes.

SS: Potatoes, uhuh.

AR: Yeah, we had the tattie shed. It was a long, low building.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Quite near there actually, sort of across the road.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And I don't think- I think it's now a house, but it's, em... It was very long and low and the crates were stacked up wi the seed potatoes.

SS: Ah right. Ohhh.

AR: More so than the...

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Because once the potatoes were harvested, they didn't- they were sent away, usually.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: In paper bags or in the hessian bags.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Not plastic bags...

SS: Uhuh.

AR: In those days... But they were sent away to market quite quickly.

SS: Right.

AR: They didn't keep them but they always had the seed enough for the next year and they were all laid out on these things. And it was the distinctive smells that I remember, as well. The tattie shed had a distinctive smell to it-

0h 56m 06s

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -in harvest. Even yet, I can sniff a combine at a hundred yards [*laughter*]. I can go out there and I'll say, right, 'oh they're cutting' [*laughter*].

SS: [*laughter*] You can smell it.

AR: [*laughter*] But I can smell the harvest in the air.

SS: Just...

AR: Yeah. So, yeah, and it's an old [ford?]- old Massey Ferguson, eh, tractor.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: No cabs.

SS: No?

AR: And we had a tin seat, ye know.

SS: Uhuh. And all- because my husband's always complained about the size of tractors for country roads.

AR: Oh, now they're massive.

SS: They're *huge*.

AR: Yeah.

SS: And that's such a neat-

AR: And look how thin the tractor tyres are.

SS: Yeah, a neat little thing. And- but again, I suppose, it must've taken quite a long time to, say, plough a field or...

AR: Well, yes, yeah.

SS: But now...

AR: And they had to- in those days, they had to plough the field. Ye know, they had to make sure that the drill was straight-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -and the furrows and everything. Whereas, nowadays it's all computerised. You set the computer and off it goes.

SS: Sort of GPS sort of thing.

AR: Yeah. Everything's computerised in these tractors now.

SS: Just incredible.

AR: But no, the men had skill in those days, ye know.

SS: Uhuh. Yeah. They had to set a straight line and...

AR: Yes. Yeah. I think my dad would've been quite delighted with his tractor cause he worked with horses before that. Ye know, he ploughed with horses.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh.

AR: Not in Archerfield but in North Belton... Em, before I was born.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: But he could plough with a horse.

SS: So, where's North Belton? Is that-

AR: Near Dunbar.

SS: -outside Dunbar?

AR: Yeah, just outside.

SS: At Belton Ford?

AR: Yes. Yeah.

SS: Right, ok.

AR: Yeah, that-

SS: So-

AR: My mum and dad met down there.

SS: Right.

AR: Cause my mum was in the Land Army.

SS: Was she?

AR: She was sent to the farm where my dad...

SS: So, what-

AR: Well, my dad was on the farm-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -and his dad was the gaffer.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: And Mum was sent from Musselburgh out on the Land Army, to work on the farm.

SS: So, during the...

AR: During the- at the...

SS: End?

AR: Nearer- coming towards the end of the Second World War.

SS: Right, uhuh, uhuh.

Anne's Father's Injury– 0h 58m 00s

AR: Yeah. Dad- cause- well, they didn't go to war cause they were farmworkers.

SS: Uhuh, uhuh. So, they'd be... There's a term. What's the term for...?

AR: Yeah.

SS: It's like miners and...

AR: Yeah, they were... Gosh, that's terrible-

SS: I can't remember...

AR: -I can't think what that's called. Yeah.

SS: Uhuh. So, they were...

AR: Essential- essential workers.

SS: Essential workers, right.

AR: Or whatever.

SS: Yeah. So, that's really...

AR: Yeah.

SS: Interesting. Yeah. That's a nice.

AR: Although, she always says she didn't fall in love with him, she felt sorry for him because... My dad [*laughter*]... He found some sort of bomb on the beach.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: At Belhaven.

SS: Right.

AR: When he was walking on the beach with his brother-in-law, well, who became his brother-in-law, called Colin-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -and his sister and things, and they took it home and put it on the chopping log where they would normally, and he hit it with an axe, and it exploded.

SS: Oh, my goodness. So, was he...?

AR: So, it's very lucky that he was... And he...

SS: Alive.

AR: He was alive, just. They didn't think he would live. Em, and it was mostly his legs that were damaged-

SS: Uhuh.

AR: -and things. But surprisingly, he lived and actually, he walked as if he'd never had a limp or anything. I don't know how, cause in those days- well, that would've been in the 1940s.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: He- my granddad thought that he wasn't bringing him home again.

SS: Aww.

AR: My granddad always used to say 'I never thought he would come back', but he did live, and so the first time my mum saw him he was on these crutches [*laughter*]. So, she always says 'I felt sorry for him', but...

SS: Aww.

AR: That was her story.

SS: There ye go, look at that, Anne.

AR: Yeah, eight children later.

SS: Eight children.

AR: And I actually... My whole life until I was about eight, I don't think I ever saw his legs. He never wore shorts, he never... Showed his leg or anything.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: Cause there was not a lot left of one of them, especially.

SS: Uhuh.

AR: One of them wasn't too bad but, em...

SS: Gosh.

AR: But he was very lucky to be alive...

SS: Oh, yeah.

AR: Em, after that.

SS: So, that was on Belhaven?

AR: He found it on Belhaven Beach and took it home, thinking that it was not live and just wanted to... I mean, I think he would've been seventeen, eighteen, or something like that... Wanting to know what was inside it.

01h 00m 08s

SS: Curiosity?

AR: Yeah.

SS: Gee.

AR: So, my aunt lost her kneecaps. She... And... All of them were ridden with shrapnel and... It was a quadrangle, so every window was broken in the cottages [*laughter*].

SS: Right.

AR: It was just... Em, yeah.

SS: Oh. Well... Anne.

AR: Claim to fame [*laughter*].

SS: [*laughter*] Thank you so much [*laughter*]... For sharing all this with me.

AR: I know. I'm not very good with the details but I've tried [*laughter*].

SS: But, no, I think- I think you've given us a good idea of what life was like in Archerfield, and the things you got up to, and your family, and what comes across is this huge family-

AR: Yeah.

SS: -and your family values. So, thank you so much. Is there anything else you want to add?

AR: No, I don't think so.

SS: Ok.

AR: I think we were just fortunate, really. You don't think at the time but when ye look back...

SS: And see what... Yeah.

AR: Yeah, what we had was a lot.

SS: Aww. Right.

AR: So, thank you.

SS: Thank you.