

<b>Interviewee(s): Annie Brown (AB)</b>	<b>Interviewer(s): Pencaitland Primary School Pupil: Alex</b>
<b>Date of Interview: 9th March 2020</b>	<b>Ref: EL33-1-1-1-T</b>
REGION	East Lothian
COUNTY	East Lothian
TOWN/VILLAGE	Pencaitland

Running time: 00.00

Alex: My name is Alex and it is the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 and we are at Pencaitland Primary School. Please introduce yourself.

AB: My name is Annie Brown. And I'm happy to be here at Pencaitland Primary School.

Alex: Can you tell us a bit about your life when you were a child?

AB: When I –

Alex: - At school, when you were at school.

AB: Yes. I grew up in a small place over in Fife, and went to school a long time ago, went to a small primary school where the teachers were lo- *mostly* lovely, some were very strict, and because Ah'm naturally left-handed, you weren't allowed to write with your left hand when I was at school, and the teacher used to rap ma knuckles with a ruler. So Ah write with ma right hand but Ah do an awful lot with ma left hand. We weren't allowed to write with our left hand... Didn't really have any classes or clubs after school – attached to the school, but Ah went to Brownies and then Guides and things. We played out in the street an awful lot when Ah wasn't at school, played skipping and what we called Caldies but Ah think you'd call it Hopscotch here, Hide-n-Seek, climb trees... played in the park. When I was little, on a Sunday, we couldn't play in the park, cos all the swings were tied up and you just weren't – you weren't allowed to play on the see-saws or anything like that, all the parks were closed and the swings were actually tied up so you that couldn't swing on em.

Alex: How do you think children's lives are different now? Are

Running time: 02.00

they better or worse, and why, why do you think?

AB: I think in lots of ways they're much, much better, because Ah think adults are much more understanding of children now. I think... you're allowed – children nowadays are allowed to speak and you're asked – well, hopefully you're asked your opinions and your views on things, and hopefully you get listened to. When I was little, we just really did what you were told whether you liked it or not, just, y'know, if the teacher said "We're doing this" or "you've got to do that", you just had to do it and if yer mum an dad said "Oh you're not allowed to do that" then you just, you just didn't do it. You know? And Ah do, and in another way Ah think you've got it a bit more difficult because social media must be difficult for young people now, I think that... And also, Ah think it's much more difficult for children because we live in a world that is much more materialistic, and that's OK in one way if you've got a mummy and a daddy that can afford to buy you lots of different things, but not sae easy if maybe your parents don't have as much money, so you might feel "oh, I've not got the right trainers to go to school with, the others'll laugh at me" or something like that, whereas that didn't happen when Ah was little.

Alex: Yeh. Why did you choose to live in East Lothian, did you ever live anywhere else?

EB: I did, well, I lived in Fife, which is where I was born, in St Andrews, and I grew up there. And then I moved to Edinburgh to go to college. And when Ah was at Edinbur-, in Edinburgh, Ah met my husband who was at university and eventually we got married and we had a flat in Leith Links.

Running time: 04.00

Then we decided we wanted to start a family and we wanted our children to grow up in a nice small area where they would meet lots of different people but be part of a community. So we decided to come to Pencaitland, and we bought a house at one end of the village, at Beech Terrace, and we lived there for ten years, and then we moved to the Glebe, and we've been there – well we've been in the Glebe twenty-nine years, so we've been in Pencaitland thirty-nine years altogether.

Alex: What was your job and what did you enjoy most about it, like?

EB: I was a nursery officer, so I worked with children. Worked with – well, Ah had trained first of all to do residential care and so I worked with children from nought to eighteen, but then Ah decided to spend more time training so Ah trained particularly in babies and little toddlers. So Ah loved that, Ah worked in a children's centre and then a community project, and at one point, when my own boys were little, I helped in the playgroup here in the village. And then my last job before Ah retired, Ah worked with the NHS as a transition nursery nurse with the health visiting team in Musselburgh, and Ah loved it – Ah loved all the little children, Ah loved weighing the babies, I loved finding solutions to problems that the mummies and daddies were having with their children, Ah loved – Ah loved especially workin with the naughty parents, the parents who mebbe didn't do exactly as they should with their children and needed a little help with their parenting skills, so Ah really liked that.

Alex: ...Ah I'm thinking, it's eh... pretty fun and

Running time: 06.00

kind of out of breath [getting the children to do stuff...]

EB: Yeh. Yes. When Ah worked in the community project, I was – Ah was with the older children and then Ah was with the younger children, and we used to have a singing session each day at the end of the nursery morning or the nursery afternoon, and there was a wee boy who is now nineteen. But when he was little, he used to – see if it was my turn to do the singing session, he used to say "No sing, Annie, no sing. You canny sing, you canny sing, no sing." So he used to [bomb] me out singing [unclear], anyway, apart from that,

Alex: Ah, thank you very much. This is the end of the interview.