

Interviewee(s): Isabell Morris (IM); Robin Morris (RM)	Interviewer(s): Margaret McCole (MM)
Date of Interview: 21 June 2019	Ref: EL22-3-1-1-T
REGION	East Lothian
TOWN/VILLAGE	Dunbar

SUMMARY	<i>Isabella and Robin talk about their early life. Isabella lived at Stonelaws while Robin lived in West Barns. They first met at the pictures in Dunbar when Robin and a friend stole some chips from Isabella and her friend. When out for a meal Robin never orders chips, he always gets a few from Isabella's plate. After they married they lived with Robin's mother but with children came the need for a home of their own and they have lived at ... in Dunbar ever since. Robin worked in a number of places including Belhaven School and, in North Berwick, the Abbey Old Folks Home as well as at Torness Power Station while it was under construction and the Cottage Hospital in Dunbar. They tell of visiting their daughter in Folkestone and Isabella's dislike of the London Underground. They contrast the Dunbar now with that of the past when the town had a dance hall in which Robin played in a band. They tell of the old gala days which have been replaced with the modern Civic Week.</i>
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00.00.00

MM: Hello recording here its Margaret McCole, it's the 21st of June 2019, I'm at [REDACTED]

IM: [REDACTED]

RM: [REDACTED] with Isabella Mellors and her husband who's.

IM: Robin, who's disappeared.

MM: He's, he's out the room for a second but he'll, he'll be in just shortly.

IM: It's not like Robin [to] disappear.

MM: He'll, he'll come back in.

IM: Yes.

MM: So we're just gonnae talk over your live here in, in Dunbar Isabella so I'll just start asking with just some general questions. So just before we started recording here you were saying you came from just outside Dunbar.

IM: Yes. When I met Robin I was at Stonelaws that's Whitekirk up passed East Linton and we've been together 56, no 57 years.

MM: 57 years.

IM: And we had four children. And first one was Alexander and then we had Margaret and June and a wee gap, quite a wee gap. I thought I was finished but then my wee darling Carol came along. And we've been in this house over; well June was six months when we came here.

MM: Right.

IM: And we love this house, we love everything about, and Dunbar to me is one of the best places you could live in.

MM: Is that right?

IM: And I wouldnae want to live anywhere else.

MM: Do you feel it's got quite a good sense of community?

IM: And we've got a school, a lovey school. The only thing I don't think we are is we've not got enough shops like.

MM: Ok.

IM: Shops that we need.

MM: What kinda shops do you feel it's missing?

IM: Well we've not got shoe shops.

MM: Right.

IM: I mean eight, when we came here there was eight shoe shops in Dunbar and I can remember them all.

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MM: What were their names?

IM: There was Mr Mason's well that is the big main one.

MM: So is that where Mae, is Masons Close is named after cos there's an old place a Masons Close just coming off the High Street there.

IM: Aye, aye.

MM: Ok.

IM: That Mr and Mrs Mason.

MM: Right.

IM: What you call old Dunbaronians that's what Laura, Laura Chokamary [spelling?] had the sweet shop.

MM: Ok.

IM: And my kids were always in there. And she used to say "When I got that done, one of my friends did that for me she got the Courier man to come".

MM: Oh the article on the wall there about your wedding anniversary?

IM: Yeah. The only thing is the couple above they got married a week before us and they shouldn't have really be in that and my friend that done it wasnae very happy about this. I was goin' to strangle her for putting that in. But it was nice, and I'm still friends wi her, Catharine [unclear] bridesmaid.

MM: Oh I see. Right. Lovely.

IM: We are friends a way, way back. [Unclear] Robin worked at Cottage Hospital when it was there see that's away now. So that's a lot ae Dunbar's disappeared.

MM: So the High Street you think's changed quite a bit over the time here especially if you said eight shoe shops.

IM: I can't, I don't know if I can say this but I think Dunbar's got a lot ae arty-fartie shops like two men.

MM: I see.

IM: But we've not got. I mean years ago we had, starting frae the top, we had Maggie Darlings, and then we came, we had a paper shop. Maggie Darlings we came along and we had a dress, aye Maggie Darlings and then on the corner we had Mrs Taylor's.

MM: Ok.

IM: She was a dress, like soft.

MM: [Unclear]

IM: Like for, she was there for years and years and she.

MM: Like a haberdashery?

00.04.00

IM: Aye.

MM: Ok.

IM: And she moved to the West Port and when she died she gave the girl that. There all away now and you know when I talk about them I, I still remember them it's funny.

MM: Of course yes.

IM: But I say that to Robin. We sat down one night and we named every shop from the top this side and from the bottom up to the top. I mean you can't live somewhere without remembering the people that were here.

MM: Not at all.

IM: But you care.

MM: Not at all.

IM: And I mean when I lived at Crowhill we used to come down every Saturday and we had a fish supper and two cooked eggs and.

MM: And how did you get down then from Crowhill to Dunbar?

IM: Walked.

MM: Is that right?

IM: My Dad and Mum and me well we were kids but we all paid for a taxi home because Mum had her messages with (cough). I says to Robin "It's strange how I met him when". I was 21 when I met Robin, my dad thought I was too young to get married. I said "Too young to get married

ah-ha". But we've had a good life and I mean Robin's had a lot of different jobs. But his first job was working at the Cottage Hospital and then he moved frae there to Dickinson's Yard, that's, they're away now.

MM: Ok.

MM: What was Dickinson's Yard?

IM: You know were Eve's, Eve's is now well that was Dickenson's Yard.

MM: The bus place [unclear].

MM: And what did, was it like a sawmill or.

IM: It was a wood play.

MM: Ok.

IM: Timber [unclear] Robin worked there [for a wee while] got a job. Robin's first job really was Belhaven School he was a gardener and that's how let he's got, that's how we've got a lovely garden.

MM: Lovely.

IM: And then we got married and stayed wi his Mam in [unclear] Crescent for, (cough) excuse me, two and a half years because I had Zander and then we had Margaret. And his Mum wanted

00.06.11

us to stay but it was overcrowded. We were all in the four o' us in one room and that wasnae working. We got on well wi his Mum but no place like a place o' your own.

MM: No you need your own space.

IM: But then Robin, Robin played in a band I would say that for years with Les Ord?

MM: Ok.

IM: And Alec Macfarlane but then he was at different places but.

MM: What did he play?

IM: The guitar lovely singer. He still does.

MM: Good, good.

IM: I don't [unclear] actually say that, but I could say that.

MM: Course you can.

IM: Cos I'm biased you see and then.

MM: How, how did you meet?

IM: We met on a Sunday night at the pictures. I was there wi my friends and we were coming out and we got a bus home to Whitekirk, me and my friends, so him and one o' his friends pinched our chips. And I said "Do you mind". But the funny side o' that is, his pal fancies me, but I didn't know that.

MM: Oh. Ok.

IM: But then Robin announced that “See if you come next week I’ll buy you chips”. He’s been pinching my chips ever [unclear].

[Dogs enter and paws scabble on the floor and a dog barks intermittently over the following.]

RM: It’s Ok.

IM: Darling the girls set the recorder. I’m telling her how we met.

RM: Oh dearie.

IM: I gave away, right, sit, oh [unclear] he’ll be alright.

MM: The dogs just entered the room as well.

IM: Robin if you sit beside me [unclear] Oh careful, come on. You might have to put him through the room Robin.

RM: [Unclear]

IM: Naw, settle down now.

MM: We’ll just pause this for a wee minute, two dogs [clatter].

[00.07.57- 00.07.58 interview paused]

00.07.58

IM: I’ve been telling her everything that we’ve done.

RM: Very much.

MM: We were just been. So Robin has just joined us in the room now and I was just actually hearing about you pinching Isabella’s chips.

RM: Yes she was High Street.

MM: And she says you’ve never stopped pinching them since.

RM: That’s true. We’ll have a meal and I never get chips I just pinch one or two of hers.

MM: Excellent, excellent. So I was just hearing from Isabella we touched on the differences in the High Street and the changes.

RM: Oh yes aye. The old traditional shops are finished. One, one time we had, we had seven grocer shops in Dunbar High Street.

IM: Yeah.

RM: Till they opened that down there and they just shut and two or three.

MM: Was to open the Co-op?

RM: When they opened the Co-op and before that was what was the cheap shop we had there?

IM: Kwik Save.

RM: Kwik Save that was it there.

IM: You know I liked it because you got everything in boxes.

RM: But I, I never thought in my lifetime I'd see taxi ranks in Dunbar High Street and about a dozen coffee shops. [Unclear] say I was born in 1940 there weren't any money in ..., '40's and '50's.

IM: No.

IM: I told her about the arty-fartie shops.

RM: Aye, aye. They seemed to have sprung up and they're making a living so maybe's there's a lot of money in Dunbar [unclear] real, real money.

IM: Yes, yeah.

MM: So you're born and bred Dunbar?

RM: I, I, I was born South Street, Belhaven just behind the, the Mason's Arms pub down there.

MM: Ok.

IM: But your Mam [unclear] lives here.

RM: But see my roots are in the harbour of course.

MM: Oh right.

00.09.28

RM: Ma, ma granny was a, a herring wifie. And I had two relations just lifeboat captains and one was drowned. The man I'm named after, Robin Herkes, was drowned in a boat called the, I forget it now; it was on the, the road, the road in those days.

MM: Ok.

RM: They were up having a practice disrupt the whole harbour and the boat up turned and him and Clements lost their lives. Wallace was the name o' the lifeboat.

IM: Robin's got.

MM: He'd been a young man then?

IM: He wasn't that old I don't think.

RM: What ae he'd be 30 or 40, come here, but the lifeboat in those days they hadnae wireless' and gps' or radars they went out wi. On the day o' the great storm the sea in there was flat calm.

IM: Yeah.

RM: And [unclear] the middle of the hur, hurricane didn't know it [unclear] comes in all down the coast [unclear] Berwick, St Abbs Head and that, a lot of fatalities.

IM: Robin's got a little boat in the harbour as well, a little cruiser.

MM: Lovely.

RM: Aye it's nice.

MM: Do you go out in it much?

IM: It's his hobby.

RM: When the weather allows me, not when the winds too strong.

MM: Its windy today isn't it.

IM: Yeah.

RM: Go out in it. He's, ah let him bark.

IM: Aye he's all right.

MM: So you met at, at the pictures?

RM: Yes the cinema aye.

MM: Which one are there were two?

IM: The picture house is away now.

RM: The old one the end, there was one in the High Street called the Empire which was a cheaper one and the Playhouse was where the doctor's is now.

IM: Yes.

RM: Where the, the surgery used.

00.11.04

MM: Where the surgery is now yes?

RM: The surgery used, used to be; no still is.

IM: Yes.

RM: Aye still is that, that was the Playhouse.

IM: I didnae get, I, I said I would wait to you came in because o' my chest.

RM: Oh aye.

IM: My (cough) my throat gets dry.

MM: So the, the Empire I can still when I walk along the High Street I can still see the gap and you see a bit o' the floorin' don't you.

IM: Yes. You do.

RM: That's, that's, that's, that's the.

IM: The original floorin' that is magic.

RM: Still there that, that was the waiting room.

IM: Mosaic.

RM: Ma, ma brother told me that it's true story that the lady who run it she was a large portly girl, she was and she got in intae the box she couldnae move so what they did get under, crawl along on their hands and knees tae got in for nothin', but she couldnae see over of course because.

MM: That's great eh.

IM: [Unclear]. Really, we've got such good memories ae Dunbar. See our beach our beach is a mess. Robin said to her, tell her about what you said.

RM: [Unclear] the groins disappeared and they say that when the groins disappeared the sand will disappear. Their making plans to get it re put up but their putting off and putting off. See in those days the '50s, '60s Dunbar was a holiday resort then they conned the Costa Brava plane o' course the no but [unclear] sorry. The council demolished all, the big open bathing pool that was there.

IM: We loved it.

RM: It was the biggest one in Scotland if not in Britain.

MM: Was it the biggest?

RM: Biggest aye. It had a fifty yard lane and a thirty yard it was eighty, eighty yards long and a, a, pad, a paddling pool and a boatin' pool.

IM: We had everything in Dunbar you ken.

RM: When, when you look at it now you couldnae, couldnae imagine how.

00.12.39

IM: No.

RM: Big it was but it really was and had a ballroom of course where they had the dan, the dancing.

IM: [Unclear] It's sad that when we walk round there you can't image we, our kids loved it didn't they. Used tae go down the [unclear] Robin was working and I used tae, you could let your kids go but now you can't do that.

RM: And that time at the Craig-en-gelt Hotel.

IM: Yeah.

MM: What's the name of it?

RM: That's Crag, now The Rocks, the Craig-en-gelt.

IM: Craig-en-gelt.

MM: OK.

RM: An it had three dance halls in it. One where sitting eating and two function halls and I remember when I work, I worked in North Berwick and this old chap was a musician and he no we actually play in Dunbar just after the Second World War he says we, we bought a big tent and we, putt, putt put it up at but the, the green bit at Belhaven beach see.

IM: It's beautiful [unclear].

RM: And every night a week they played. And, and six weeks the whole, whole o' July and the half o' August and he says everything, see we walked along the prom with bow ties on to the Craig-en-gelt.

IM: Like penguins.

MM: Fantastic.

RM: Of course they kept our stuff and set up and dinner dance every night.

MM: Goodness, that's really quite hard to imagine that there would be that demand for it.

RM: Oh aye, oh aye.

RM: Dunbar the first two weeks o' July was Edinburgh trades.

IM: Yeah.

MM: Aye.

RM: And the next two weeks were the Glasgow. And a train come frae Edinburgh.

MM: [Unclear]

IM: Full o' people.

RM: An two thousand folk anyway ants goin' in an ant hill. And then they had this lorry, an open lorry where they put the, put their cases.

IM: Luggage in.

00.14.12

RM: Was in and this [unclear] the, the housing schemes and that delivering it.

IM: Chucking it all off.

MM: So when the people came down and they spilled forth from the train, where, where were they staying?

RM: The council house tenants yea could have a, we had them for a, every year they come back and stay.

MM: [Unclear] lodgers?

RM: Aye a couple.

IM: And there was two caravan parks we had a big caravan park and it had all the facilities and then the guest house round the back, round the west end, near every house was a guest house.

RM: Aye that's right. Of course the council tenants could do that at that time.

MM: Brilliant.

RM: We had the same people come every year.

MM: So you had regular people come back and would you give them a room or would you give them a bite to eat as well?

RM: They, they, they just give them a room.

IM: Just a room yeah.

RM: Then just the room that was it and they went out theirsell did away. That was the fort, the late '40s and '50s and. The money wasnae there, ken.

IM: Ah but the thing is darling I think what it is now it's because more people as you said they've got working wives and we, I tell you we look after our great grandkids so their mum and dad and Julian's our grandson. I mean Robin's nearly 80 and I'm 79 coming up but we love looking after them.

MM: Of course you do.

RM: Aye.

IM: It keeps us young. Yeah.

RM: In those days the wife never worked.

IM: No that was taboo.

RM: They didnae in, in the.

MM: Worked at home.

[Babble]

IM: Rephrase that please.

00.15.42

RM: But, the, the [unclear] but the working man has, Richard's got a working wife now.

IM: Yes.

RM: That's the difference. And they, there's a couple, see there and the eldest daughter said "Mum I'm getting married" "Yea canny leave the house we need your money".

IM: That was years ago.

MM: That's very.

RM: [Unclear]

IM: But that happened.

RM: Oh that was, that was right, aye.

IM: I told the girl, I says "My dad thought I was too young at 21". My mother had three kids then.

MM: So how long were you courting 'fore you got married?

RM: Oh it was a.

IM: Right.

MM: Or were you winching like [unclear] out on the west coast.

IM: We got, we got engaged on my 21st birthday we were in a picture, will I tell her?

RM: Aye.

IM: We're in the picture house at North Berwick and he says "What about us getting married". And I went "What, say that again" and you know my favourite song it's till my favourite song Acker Bilk *Stranger on the Shore*.

RM: It was played.

IM: Every time I hear that song he says, you tell her what you said.

RM: It's played. It's played aw the time. But.

IM: What you said.

RM: Ae canny mind.

IM: What you say, now. If, if what was we said? I said "Yeah". We wouldn't change a thing we would still have got married and we've.

RM: We mar, engaged in May and married in, in September the same year.

MM: Ok.

IM: And everybody thought, dare I say it, thought I was pregnant.

RM: But she wasn't.

IM: And I, I'll tell you something.

00.17.17

RM: Oh that was a thing [unclear].

IM: Now this is funny and it'll no matter if you say it there cos most folk in Dunbar know us anyway. I went home and I says to my dad "My hut" I says "Robin and I want to get married" and my big brother dropped his lessons no here anymore. He looked at me and I says "I'm gonnae tell you this they think I'm pregnant, but I'm not" and my mother looked at me she says "Well I hope not". You didn't get pregnet when I was young.

MM: [Unclear] different days then.

RM: Are you from the west side?

MM: I'm from Greenock.

IM: Ah.

RM: Greenock.

MM: I'm amazed.

IM: But no I mean I'd be happy at. Robin and I have some scare, hairy-scary times. I told her about Zander and it's, I said it was his birthday but, I mean, we've had a lot going for us and we still have. Anyway living in Dunbar its, Robin and I wouldnae want to live anywhere else. But we go our holidays down ae Folkestone and Robin'll tell you what he does down there.

RM: ..., swim the English Channel.

IM: Swims the, swims in the Channel.

RM: Not, not jat. In it, not across it but I swim in it.

IM: He loves it.

RM: And the water doon there and it's, it's unbelievable the water could get [unclear].

MM: So, but the pool and that being here and obviously being close so you'd've been swimming from a very young age.

RM: Oh aye, aye.

IM: Oh Robin you know, tell her how you learnt to swim a bit.

RM: There was, there was two pools, the old pool, which was free, and the big pool what cost you a sixpence to get in. So we couldnae afford the sixpence so I learnt to swim in the old pool. It's still there, the, the remains anyway [unclear].

IM: You can still see it, yeah.

RM: That's where I learnt to swim. But I never learnt the front crawl till I retired.

IM: Till you went in the pool.

MM: So what were you swimming in?

RM: Just the breast stroke.

00.19.05

MM: Breast stroke.

RM: Snorkel of course underwater stuff but [unclear] front crawl.

IM: Oh he does that as well.

RM: The front crawl until I retired actually. And I said right you could do some when you get older [unclear].

IM: I think all in all we've got a busy life we're always doing something.

RM: We have, we have the great grandchildren and [unclear].

IM: I showed her the pictures.

RM: [Unclear] in fact this'll be the last Friday we should get them till they go back to school.

IM: Oh yeah they're goin' on holiday. We've got a wee one, Maisie [?], I'm sure she held on to my wedding "I don't want youse to go". And it's funny what she said was "Granny" she says "Gran". I says "Ah, but wait a minute you're going on holiday for two weeks, what am I going to do when you're away" "Ah but I'm going with my daddy and mummy and my big sister, and when we come back we'll be coming to see you". And I said "Well, I hope so". But she's so independent isn't she. She won't let you help her she won't she just does everything on her own. She's six it was her birthday the other day.

MM: Of course. Lovely.

IM: We went to her little tea party.

RM: Greenock, Greenock and Gourock are they, there the same?

MM: Yeah pretty much yeah. They, there kinda sit side by side the way Belhaven and Dunbar does now. There's no discernible, a postcode of a difference if you see what I mean.

IM: Yeah, aye, yeah.

RM: Aye, aye [unclear].

IM: You know that's what Robin and I say, people say "Oh Dunbar where's that about" and Robin tells them where it is. But I'll give ye a laugh one day we're up the street this old man, a nice old gentleman, he said "Love why is it called sunny Dunny?" because he said "I've been here for a week and its ***". I canny say what he said but I says "Wait a minute you dinnae want our backsides burnt every day". And he said "It's no mi backside, it's his body".

RM: It has a has the highest it's, it's like Kent it's better southeast [unclear] countries in the more there, there best arable counties gone East Lothian, Kent it's, it's amazing.

IM: It's lovely we've got a lovely coastline.

MM: Beautiful.

IM: And we like North Berwick as well and, I mean, Robin worked at the Abbey there for a long time.

00.21.27

RM: There was like a Glaswegian boy, overspill came in the early '60s, and he used to walk from West Barns right round and up on the coast.

IM: He loved it.

RM: He says, says "I couldn't get over seeing the sea one side o' a dyke and catties the other side".

IM: A farm.

RM: You just couldnae [unclear] and the ruggedness o' the coast we'd take it all for granted [unclear] ken inlets and outlets o' the coast.

MM: So you're saying that the overspill came from Glasgow in the '60s.

IM: Yeah.

MM: What was that they've knocked down now.

RM: No they built, they built the new scheme [unclear].

IM: The built the new scheme out there Force, Force Terrace and aw them.

MM: They must've been knocking down people's houses in Glasgow then round about that time.

IM: Yeah, yeah.

RM: Aye, aye. Now a lot cum frae, it wasnae Port, it wasnae Glasgow was it Port Glasgow?

IM: Aye.

RM: Port Glasgow they came from.

MM: Oh right.

RM: Aye.

MM: And did they come down to work in the likes of.

IM: Yes.

MM: Torness.

[Unclear]

IM: Port lines was, port lines yeah, I mean since Torness (Power Station) was built a lot o' people work at Torness, but it's not men that actually, what I didn't like about that was I worked there when it was getting built, as a cleaner, but to me they didn't employ Dunbar people. They brought their own people in to build it which I think was wrong.

RM: There were skills you see. There were certain skills that Dunbar folk didn't have [unclear] rest of it.

MM: Of course.

IM: But the thing is though Robin Dunbar is still, I went, I went to, this is the thing wi me, I went to North Berwick school, I didn't live in North Berwick.

00.22.57

MM: Ok.

IM: But I've got people that'll say to me "Oh you were frae North Berwick". I says "No I am not posh". I says "My big sister got married to a man frae North Berwick but I went upmarket I got Robin". That's my big sister and I used to have wee arguments about that.

RM: Aye, aye.

MM: And do you think there's a bit of a difference between the likes of Dunbar and North Berwick?

RM: Oh yes [unclear] definitely [unclear].

IM: [Unclear] yes. Oh listen I've got friends; I'll not name them, because I don't want tae get in trouble. But I go out with us girls and one said to me "We beat you at hockey". I said "No, yea didn't. I didn't play hockey I played lacrosse and netball". But oh she was right awry.

RM: [Unclear] there's, there's all always been. Course North Berwick [unclear].

IM: It is!

RM: North Berwick had a lot o' peep, famous people staying there Maddy Kirk married now who was that famous dancer way back in the '50s, '60s, ballet dancer?

IM: Margot Fonteyn.

MM: Margot Fonteyn.

RM: Fonteyn she had a house there.

IM: Yes.

RM: Oh aye, aye she did.

MM: I never knew that.

RM: And, and the Duke, the Duke [unclear].

IM: But Dunbar had a lot a, a big names as well.

RM: But the most famous was North Berwick.

MM: How do you find the difference then just the way the town [unclear]?

RM: [Unclear] it just happened.

IM: I think.

RM: The houses in North Berwick must be, must be the richest, easy, in Scotland for the massive houses that's built there [unclear].

IM: But, you know I found Robin, I went to a lot a country schools and, I mean I still get stick about being frae North Berwick. I said "I didn't live there" and I'm blaming my dad for moving. He'll be looking down and saying 'Ayyyyyyah'.

MM: But when it comes to like, a sense of community what do you think, who's do you think has got the stronger community then?

00.24.42

IM: I think Dunbar has but a lot o' folk'll disagree.

MM: Ok.

IM: But I would never, I've never thingway "Oh I come frae North Berwick". I mean Robin and I never, he never says "Oh you've come frae North Berwick so".

RM: I worked there but the place.

IM: He worked there!

RM: The place I worked was Abbey Old Peoples Home.

MM: I know where you are.

IM: Oh what a lovely wee place.

RM: Now a Colonel Speirs owned it and he, he [unclear] it tae people frae Edinburgh.

IM: Yes.

RM: But an interesting story. I met a chap who, who 1930s odds was a telegraph boy for the GPO (General Post Office). In those days telegraphs were sent down the line by the GPO, by the railway system, and he told me he says "This chap come down, Speirs says", silver topped cane, "My good man telegram?" "Yes" "Buckingham Palace London to King George the Sixth deep regrets at your loss, Speirs" and he walked oot. And the King knew who he was. He, he, he's [unclear] contact so he had [unclear].

IM: He was like an old colonel. Yeah.

RM: Colonel, Colonel Speirs. But he was clever, but he, he out done the politicians. His wife was off the legal eagles in East Lothian and he made this will that he left it to the people of Edinburgh and their successors.

IM: Yes.

RM: To have as a holiday rest home.

IM: For people.

RM: In perpetuity.

IM: Yeah.

RM: Means forever and the reason had it, the reason gave up, the council got on it and they tried to sell and they couldnae. Oh they're no weel about it want, want make it into offices oh definitely. But this will come out yea can't gine it.

IM: Mind Robin we've got.

MM: He, he built that in tae sort of future proofed it.

RM: Aye, aye, I'm saying.

IM: Do you know I was thinking about old Dunbar. See the, what they've done with that garden that is something else.

00.26.32

MM: At the back lands at The Ridge.

IM: At, at.

RM: Aye the, the cumming, the [unclear] Dunbar.

IM: And you know they boys should be well placed for doing that.

RM: Is it, is it, is it Lottery money their getting?

MM: We get different kinds of money so we have to fund raise right across the board so where we're doing it we're doing the Black Bull Close.

IM: [Unclear] they boys are experts.

MM: Buildings that's, that's Lottery money at the moment.

RM: Now you see you go down the steps to the Co-operative Store the wall there there's a Monks Walk and are you goin' open that up one day?

MM: We hope to.

RM: Aye it's.

IM: I think.

RM: It's about six feet wide or somethin' is that [unclear].

IM: Do you know.

MM: Do you remember ever, ever being open?

RM: No.

IM: No.

RM: No, no in my time.

IM: I tell you what I find interesting with the Black Bull project. I look at, when I go down to the Library, I look it all up I can't imagine the fireplaces on the wall.

RM: Aye, aye.

IM: And I'm old fashioned by the way I was brought up by my Gran and went there for holidays and my father always said "Old fashioned, remember you're old fashioned". And there's a lovely old man goes swimmin' wi Robin and he says "I like you because your old fashioned". And Robin says "Oh aye the wife's very old fashioned".

RM: But see what happened after the Second World War see there's a lot of poverty in the '30s.

IM: Yeah.

RM: And the, the fun, this pit [unclear] does right wi this, this [...] down and build houses and then bit, built a lot o' this historical buildings in their way but [unclear].

IM: Dunbar is, but Robin.

00.28.12

RM: [Unclear] of an all Norman knew he was houses.

IM: Darling Dunbar has got lots of history with the castle.

RM: Oh aye [unclear].

IM: I'm a great believer in Mary Queen of Scots. Tell her about, we have that, we've got a DVD somewhere.

RM: Ah somewhere Old Dunbar.

IM: And it's about Dunbar.

MM: Ok.

IM: And it was away back years ago in the '50s where it when it say.

RM: Aye sort o' main [unclear].

IM: And it's everything in it well there's a teacher, Miss Miles, she said a funny thing to the wee girl, she says tae her "If Mary Queen of Scots has stayed in her own bed she would've go on better". And I thought that was funny but Eddie MacFarlane he was in that video wasn't he (cough). But when we like going back and [unclear].

MM: So did you recognise people in the DVD.

RM: Oh aye, aye, aye, aye, aye.

IM: Oh aye yeah we did. We says to her, all we says “You’ve no got me in that video”. But a lot o’ folk don’t like seeing theirselves on video.

RM: But we.

IM: We love it.

RM: We’ve been up at the (cough) Worlds End pub and having a meal.

IM: Oh yeah.

RM: And this couple came in and just started speaking to us [unclear] oh she says “[unclear] New Jersey” he says [unclear] and I went we got speaking and talked about the nations I says but she’s “The town I come from” I says “Was the royal burgh in the 12th century King David gied, they had a promise and aw the rest o’ it”. She says.

IM: Yeah.

RM: “Prop, prop, prop in America what yea had Indians”. She just said “It’s a young country” we haven’t the tradition that you’ve got [unclear] in the 12th century we were a royal burgh [unclear].

MM: Exactly.

IM: You know what I like years ago we had great galas here and we had the Prov, Lord Provost, Mr James.

RM: Oh aye, aye, aye.

00.30.01

IM: And this is what we don’t have now in Dunbar.

MM: What would, what would the galas be?

IM: There were floats we had floats and the kids frae the school. Now they walk from the school round, it’s not the same for us.

MM: So the way they kinda have is it Civic Week now? Back in the day it would’ve been like, it would’ve been a Gala Day.

IM: Yeah, [unclear] we had the Gala, it’s called gala.

RM: Aye, aye [unclear] the end, the very end of [unclear] season in August they had, had fireworks show and [unclear].

IM: Yeah. Oh we had everything.

RM: [Unclear] it finished end o’ August was the last o’ it the [unclear].

MM: Last of the kinda holiday season and then would the town just go.

RM: By the time you come to the Edinburgh, Edinburgh weekend in September that was it.

MM: Right.

IM: It's generally [unclear] our chill, we had the best time in Dunbar. We, our children growing up because we had it awe. And our kids aa had the tennis courts but we've still got them and then when our kids all learnt to swim. I can't swim by the way.

RM: And, and, and now.

IM: I grew up a swimmer.

RM: Council putting greens, there were five or six o' them all round Dunbar [unclear].

IM: Oh yeah.

MM: Five or six is that right?

IM: Yeah there where, they were good.

RM: [Unclear] that's the summer visitors o' course you see.

MM: Of course yeah.

IM: They were.

RM: I say it was, it was, it was there after the Second World War when you hadnae any money and so.

MM: And there would've been loads of cafes and things for the visitors to eat at?

RM: Oh aye [unclear].

IM: There was but see now this is what I say we've got too many, I've said it already and I'm goin' to say it again, but we've got more coffee shops than we need. But see they're not always open. And this is what, at one time a bus [came in], I just go back a few years and then I says but

00.31.45

where could we get a sand tait well the fish and chip shops are [unclear] most people like fish and chips. But I tell yea this is nice, we'll go and coming from the bathing pool a wee while ago and this nice coloured family approached then I thought 'oh, oh' and I says "Are you, can I help yea?" and it was the girl she said "We're looking for somewhere to eat, but we don't want a big meal". And I says, I said about [unclear] but they didn't want go there. And I said "What about fish and chips" "Oh".

RM: That was it.

IM: So I sent them to [Jock & Mary's?]. And you know I saw them again a bit a few days later and he says "Thanks for being so helpful".

MM: Lovely.

IM: I mean I, I can talk to anybody. He'll tell yea I, I gas too much, he says "Bell would yea stop talkin' to too many people". I says "Sorry".

RM: Now. The Royal Bank of Scotland shut.

IM: Oh yeah.

RM: Its now a, a nice [unclear].

IM: A sweetie shop.

RM: Ice cream and sweeties [unclear].

MM: [Unclear] did you see.

IM: I've not been in it yet.

RM: [Unclear] a bank closing.

IM: And make it intae sweetie shop where the bairns are getting sweeties.

MM: Do you think that's a big loss in the town?

RM: Wae used to have a British Linen Bank here at one time and [unclear].

IM: We had a lot o' banks.

RM: The Edinburgh Savings it's, it's about closing actually Edinburgh Savings.

IM: What about the first one we had was the wee one it's still going.

RM: Edinburgh Savings just and no more.

IM: Edinburgh Savings we started there.

MM: What, that's still here is it?

RM: Aye still.

IM: Yes.

RM: They haven't got a cash machine or that.

00.33.21

MM: Where, whereabouts is that?

IM: Just opposite the, the bus stop.

RM: That not the Empire, Empire Picture House [unclear].

IM: Where the Empire Café opposite there. But we saw a lot o' changes that we don't like I'm gonnae be a wee bit I might no be liked for saying this but I don't like how they've built houses out that way to Dunbar because to me that was for the wildlife and they built these houses there well I can still see my lovely hills so, yea ken, as long as you don't build again but I don't want them built in front of me. And Robin said it for me we're friendly with George Robertson and Robin says to him "When are you going to sort up the groins?" He says "Robin", maybe shouldnae say this it might.

RM: She's putting up and putting up.

IM: I think I can say it he said "There's more important things what". They've got these silly seats they're marble outside you know what I says to George?

MM: The new ones on the High Street?

IM: Know what I says to him "George I would have to take my wipes wi me to wipe the seagulls poo off" and he went (sucks in a breath).

RM: You would, can you remember four steps where pool used to be?

MM: Ah-ha.

IM: Yeah.

RM: What it, there's a, a seat like an uptime down sled.

IM: Oh that's for John Muir.

RM: It's, it's the most stupid seat ever saw in my life.

IM: Watch what you're saying Robin.

MM: That's OK you don't need to worry [unclear].

RM: It's, it's impractical.

IM: [Unclear], you're allowed to speak your mind but.

RM: But it looks bloody awful.

IM: It won't go down wi people that think we should listen to what they've got to say. But we're happy in Dunbar and Robin and I go, we go down to our daughter's because we love goin' and we've been goin' for quite a few years.

MM: Do you get the train down there [unclear].

RM: Train down aye, train.

IM: And I like.

00.35.15

RM: London Bridge.

IM: Coming back to Dunbar.

RM: Kings Cross and St Pancras.

IM: That's, this is our home and I we love it here.

MM: [Unclear] connection for you.

RM: Aye St Pancras [unclear], half an hour [unclear].

MM: Nice travelling by train isn't it?

RM: Oh aye.

IM: Well we used to go in the bus. Now this is not important but I was ill for two days after and it wasne worth it.

RM: It's fourteen hours in the bus. Two days.

MM: No.

IM: So my grandson said "Gran, I'll take yea on the train". He took us in this, nut, I wouldnae go in it again the Underground. This big coloured man was coming pass me and he was get, going up the escalator and he turned round and knocked me flyin' and I was hauden on for grim

death and my grandson Garry shouts "Hold on, Nan, I'm just coming" and I thought oh my God but it was too fast for me. I don't like fast things.

RM: Oh I liked the electric underground. A, a train every two minutes is great.

IM: Oh this yin thought it was magic.

RM: Quick, quick [unclear] standing fancy waiting an hour for a train this is, this is [unclear] but.

IM: I couldnae wait to get out it, it was the smell o' the, it just.

MM: I'm not a fan of the Underground I don't like, I don't like the idea of being underground.

IM: Do you know I'd rather walk round we walked round to the station to St Pancras to get a train down to Folkestone.

MM: It's a beautiful station as well.

IM: But, I mean, as Dunbar is [unclear] Robin and I have loved it here I mean it's.

MM: Did you work a few jobs here Robin?

RM: I worked at the Cottage Hospital.

IM: I told her that.

MM: Where would that, at the same at the bit oh no it's different.

RM: That [unclear] Old Folks Home when I worked in Belhaven.

IM: But you were at Belhaven Hospital before I come.

00.36.53

MM: So the old folks home on the way out o' town towards Spott Road.

IM: Yes aye.

MM: That one.

IM: Yeah.

RM: [Unclear] this, this down from a big church.

MM: Aye, aye, aye.

RM: [Unclear] that was the Cottage Hospital and I went and got transferred to Belhaven. I worked in there for 22 years.

IM: Yeah.

RM: All in all.

IM: But I think all in all we've been lucky because Robin was just once out o' a job. But he was working when Torness was getting up. Robin was working at the camp they had up there.

RM: Thurston village the, the camp for.

IM: Then they closed it when Torness [unclear].

MM: They made a camp for the workers?

RM: Oh aye.

MM: Oh did they?

RM: It's now now's Thurston Manor.

IM: Yeah.

MM: Oh gosh I didn't know that!

RM: [Unclear] for the workers, aye.

MM: And well was it like chalets or did they have them in kinda Nissan huts or.

IM: Chalets yeah.

RM: It where, they were big right chalets aye.

IM: Oh it's lovely now.

MM: And that was built for, for the workers for [unclear]?

IM: Yeah.

RM: And when they left.

IM: They've got a bathing there, that's what I says why don't you go up there and get a swim at the bathing pool up there.

MM: I never knew that was, so that's why that caravan parks there really now.

00.37.52

IM: Yes.

RM: An interesting story when I worked in Bel, I served my time at Belhaven School. Now it's a private school were they sent the pupils to Oxford, Cambridge and the rest o' it and this chap was, the teacher was called Colin Mason whose the brother of James Mason the famous film actor.

IM: Yeah.

MM: Oh!

IM: We met him [unclear].

RM: And I met him in '56 and I spoke to him I said, I said I liked him playing Rommel. And he said "Actually he looked more like Rommel than and his brother more like" [unclear] he got a little [unclear].

IM: We've had an eventful life.

RM: He's a very small chap I was seven, six feet thin I was taller than he was, James Mason was, very small.

MM: Is that right?

RM: Aye.

IM: Yeah.

RM: Course his brother says "He could've been an Oxford Don he's ruined his life being in that bloody films" he says.

IM: But the think is wi us Belhaven School is still there but they've got it girls now as well as boys.

RM: Girls and boys.

IM: But I think we've had a good life the two o' us here and I wouldnae [unclear].

MM: Did you go into school here then?

RM: Oh aye.

MM: When, so was it over near Woodbridge?

RM: No I mean Woodbridge, Woodbridge was right next to where the old school was amongst the houses.

IM: This, there was, you went to school there as well.

RM: Aye and when, when the tide was high used to [unclear].

MM: I, I heard that.

IM: Used to get a bath for free.

RM: It was great.

00.39.09

MM: I did an interview with another gentleman who told me that story as well he says the poor girls that, the, the, the tide came over [unclear] the sea went underneath their doors.

RM: But I was in the Latin class and we turned from it intae a Grammar school, a school. And they had to have a Latin motto and we were sitting and [unclear] says if you want it gets you'll have to work for it *non sine pulvere palma* not without dust the hands. Millers writ [unclear] see I had to work for it. Cos in those days manual workers were, that was in 1954, [unclear] now adays you just put in computers, in those days and yes *non sine pulvere palma*, ken.

IM: Aye. Yes. You done it.

MM: So you came up with the school motto?

RM: Aye. Well aye, aye, aye and Johnny Mill.

IM: Yes he did him and the head, Mr Johnny Mill.

MM: Fantastic.

IM: Robin's always remembered that.

RM: Now they don't [unclear].

IM: North Berwick didn't have one by the way.

RM: They don't have it on the badge anymore.

MM: Do they not?

RM: Just Dunbar Castle and down below was *non sine*.

IM: Do you know the strange thing about North Berwick's school and Dunbar we had the same colours for years as Dunbar.

RM: Aye red and black.

IM: And Dunbar changed them, North Berwick's never changed them.

RM: There red and green, black and green now for some reason. But that was the Grammar.

MM: Where was the Grammar School?

RM: That was down there.

IM: Just there.

RM: Where, where the water came over the.

MM: Right got you.

RM: That was chain, it was changed from comp, it wasnae the comprehensive it was secondary school that was what it was called then it became a Grammar.

IM: Yeah.

MM: And what was the difference from that then.

00.40.41

RM: I don't know.

MM: Did they have to.

IM: But Robin helped to build that, the big school.

MM: The new one, the new one there.

RM: Aye I [unclear] there for Crudens for two years.

IM: Ah-ha.

IM: I was there when Dunbar United won the Scottish Junior Cup 1960's [unclear].

IM: Awe we've not got any photos to show you but Robin was actually taken, his picture was taken, and it was in a paper wasn't it.

RM: We went wi black and white hisbores hats [unclear].

IM: A friend's mother painted them didn't she.

RM: Painted them all black and white [unclear] it took us [unclear].

IM: We had a yeah.

MM: Great stuff.

IM: I didn't know, I didn't, I wasnae goin' wi you then naw.

RM: Naw, naw.

MM: And if you were going, if you were out and about and going away for the day where would you go to then or would you.

RM: To Edinburgh.

MM: Edinburgh is that right?

IM: Edinburgh.

MM: On the train?

IM: Alternate Berwick.

RM: Edinburgh.

IM: We've been at Berwick.

RM: But we used to drink in Eyemouth when I was started drinking we went down to Eyemouth every Saturday.

IM: Before he met me as well.

RM: Aye, aye.

IM: He could tell you that.

MM: Eyemouth why Eyemouth?

00.41.37

RM: I don't know just, sup, sup, I think one o' my pals stayed there or round about that area

IM: Yes. Aye.

RM: And Eyemouth [unclear] you see.

RM: You're a wee bit anonymous if you were out of town as well.

IM: Yeah. Tell the story about your pal, you...

RM: Oh aye the one that went to Berwick and it was on Old Year's Night, I mean in 1960 when he, he got his sel that fou he couldnae.

IM: They all got fou.

RM: We were carrying him oot tae West Barns anyway. There's, there's somebody's bar, barrow for [unclear] in this barra and wheel, wheeled [unclear] not done away. And, and his mother came oot "Awe".

IM: Terrible.

RM: And as, as an afterthought o' that, the next time that I met him was, it was his brother-in-law's funeral.

IM: Yeah.

RM: And doon at, but Hall, Hallwell.

IM: He was alright.

RM: No Hallwell, its Hallwell and [unclear].

IM: Oh yeah [unclear] sorry I'm getting mixed up.

RM: "Oh" I says "Come on Billy there's somebody I want tae meet". Isabell yae mind, yae mind the time we carried a boy home I says "That was him" and my other pal who [unclear], he was and saying and Billy "There's one them boys that wheeled the barrow" his old pal "Oh" [unclear].

IM: You got stick frae your mother as well.

RM: We never, we were not involved in any fights.

MM: No, peaceful.

RM: We, we used to go up to Edinburgh when Dunbar played a semi-final.

IM: Yeah, yeah.

RM: Up at Easter Road and we went intae a dance hall, I forget what it was, there's nae trouble. We never, mind they're all six feet [unclear] I suppose.

MM: Naw.

IM: You wouldn't have any problems.

RM: I, Bill six foot are we [unclear].

00.43.13

IM: Yea still don't [unclear].

MM: See Dunbar itself like at that time was it quite a peaceful town?

RM: Oh aye it was (whispers).

IM: Do you know John Barry's getting more in the papers now for the wrong reason.

MM: You think so?

IM: I'll tell you what Laura [Toganeri?] said one time to us "They are not Dunbarorian because they haven't been in the town five minutes". Now Laura's a wee bit I don't [unclear] for saying this because Laura had a little sweet shop in West Port and all our kids used to go in and she used to give them extras didn't she.

RM: Aye, aye but in those days.

IM: But the town's.

RM: Dunbar still, still is pretty free from.

IM: We've now, we've had the odd crime.

RM: There, there'll be a, there'll be drugs on the go [unclear] public domain it'll be going alright.

MM: Of course.

IM: But see now but what I think now is the Police haven't got the same authority because young boys, boys will be boys [unclear].

RM: They don't, they don't walk the streets. That's what I miss is police walking up and down Dunbar High, Dunbar streets [unclear].

IM: With a dog, with a dog.

MM: With a dog. Is that right?

RM: Aye, aye but they don't do it now.

IM: They sit in their car, listen.

RM: Its money it's getting cut back and that's it.

IM: We shouldn't say this but they sit in their car and watch things happening. Now to me that, if they got out well maybe they don't want to get a knife in their body or anything.

RM: Aye.

IM: We've never had crime like we have now. And there shuttin' a lot o' the pubs which I think not a bad thing but then.

MM: Was there more pubs back, back in your time or?

RM: Oh yes aye.

IM: Oh there was plenty but there was life, I mean people went out and enjoyed thersels. Now Robin and I, Robin would played in a band, I told her about you playing in the band.

00.45.01

RM: [Unclear] band for 40 years.

IM: And then Robin and Les and Alec. Alec and Les are still alive and but we have lost an awful lot of friends that where friends, real friends.

RM: Old school pals [unclear].

IM: And old school pals. Robin gets a wee bit thingway about the, and I've told him about it you can't think like that. He walks round Deer Park when we go and he says "Bell there is people here younger than me" I says "Love, there's people older as well". I'll give you this little storey, might not interest anybody else but this is how I live. When my boy died, an old man died the same day and he's in the next grave to Zander. Now I've been going out there for years and I pass his first and I put a flower on his grave, he was 93. Our lovely son was 37. I say where's the justice there? That old man had a real life but our boy had a real life, but I'm afraid what happened to him I can't, I can't see that happening.

MM: Naw.

IM: And Robin says you've got to stop thinking about it, why?

MM: It's hard though isn't it, it's hard of course.

IM: I can, I can but people keep saying to me “Well it’s his birthday on Saturday” and one o’ his pals said a lovely thing to me the day, “Give him a hug for me”.

MM: Awe.

IM: I says “I wish I could’a hug him”.

MM: I’m sure he knows your hugging him, I’m sure he does.

IM: It’s no silly.

MM: It’s no silly at all.

IM: But I mean he’s crying and so am I.

MM: It’s not silly at all it’s very sad.

IM: It’s happy tears, it’s very happy tears. Now there’s he up there wi his girlfriend.

MM: Lovely.

IM: And that’s the last picture o’ him taken at Blackpool wi his girlfriend.

MM: Oh I see it there yeah I know.

IM: Oh he was a lovely boy.

MM: It’s such a tragedy.

IM: It’s hard for us I’m afraid.

MM: I’m sure it is.

00.47.14

RM: But, we, we came back after getting this done up for us wi the council. And, and my daughter’s pictures there, you see, the wedding pictures and I said “I can pit them awe up” [unclear].

IM: Oh Robin it was his idea I think he’s wishing now he hadnae started.

RM: And I said “Pit them up”, “naw, naw.” I says “Pit them awe up”.

IM: I was telling her about every time we get a new one he says “Now, are you sure you want it there?” [Unclear].

MM: You only get one shot at it.

IM: You know the one there the wee boy in the kilt that’s Jamie.

MM: Ok.

RM: That’s him he’s about.

IM: Now his girlfriend came up you know what she said to me “Who’s the wee fat boy in the kilt?” And he says “Gran, do me a favour, take that [down]” I says “No this is my house”. A lot of

people say "You've got too many pictures" I says "Nothing's bad". Look at that wall see the stickers on that wall.

RM: That was the wee granddaughter.

IM: That was that Messy and my brother-in-law came up one day and he said "Who's the Picasso?" And I said "And where's the" see that picture there [unclear] Ava painted that for us didn't she Robin?

RM: Aye.

MM: The kinda blue and red one, that's lovely.

IM: That one. She painted it and she's got Ava on it.

MM: Wonderful.

IM: She's was just what, about six.

RM: Well what is that machine still goin'?

MM: Yeah.

RM: How long does it last for?

IM: I'm afraid it is.

MM: Yeah.

IM: Been going all the time.

RM: Aye, aye, aye.

IM: It's all right there's nothing [unclear].

MM: [Unclear]

00.48.43

RM: It's no, it's no, it's no a wee tape?

MM: No it goes on a, a, a memory card like you have in your camera.

RM: A memory card [unclear] limitless o' course aye, [unclear] amazing.

IM: [Unclear] I said to her before she started she asked if we minded doing this and I said anything we say, any, most people in Dunbar know us anyway.

RM: Just plead, plead the fifth amendment.

IM: I know nothing!

RM: Well I think he's back now.

MM: Oh ok I'll go, I'll go, finish this for just now but I'd love to come back and chat to youse again after your holidays would that be alright?

IM: Yeah.

RM: Aye, aye, aye, aye.

MM: If that's ok with you guys.

RM: Aye, aye, aye, aye.

IM: We'll bring you back a stock o' rock frae Folkestone.

MM: Thank you.

IM: We do that for our friends yeah it's been nice to meet you.

MM: Yeah, really, let the dog out.

[00.49.24]