

## M ORAL HISTORY (INTERVIEWED BY C)

Transcriber's initials: GR

P1: Gardens, living spaces and music. First question is: what did you have for your school lunches at school? Do you remember?

P2: Eh...[breath]. Liver [laugh] cause I hated it. It was like the sole on your shoe. I remember liver and onion... and... caramel cake and custard. That's the things... that I remember. The other stuff was... eh... just like your mince and [word not clear].

P1: Did you enjoy your school dinner?

P2: Not really.

C: So were you looking forward to going home and having tea when you went home.

P2: Yeah... eh... didn't really like... some of... some of the things I liked. But...

P1: Was it like a meal and did you sit with your classmates and eat together with teachers?

P2: Yeah. Well there's maybe I think if I remember rightly there was like four. Some was bigger than... I can't always remember. But you had... to eat it whether you liked it or not.

P1: Ok and the full plate?

P2: Yeah. Had to be emptied. Cause I went... eh... now where was it... [inaudible] Galloway, Galloway House it was called and it was a fortnight we were away eh... it was before we went into secondary school... and it was a place... I can't remember the meat but I always remember the mash potatoes and the onions.

P1: Yeah.

P2: The onions, so you had to eat that...you know you weren't allowed to leave it. So I am trying to potatoes [inaudible, sounds like "mix"]... the wee boy beside me is giving me some of his potatoes [laugh]... cause you had to, you know?

P1: Would he not take any of your meat?

P2: No, no he was just giving me his potatoes so that I [not as clear - sounds like "couldn't eat the rest of them"].

P1: Aw, sounds stressful.

P2: You had to [inaudible] porridge, so brought me out in spots and... tried to tell them that... but eh.

P1: So you had breakfast at school as well as lunch?

P2: No, no this was when I was down [not clear] the things you had to do.

P1: Blimey. Funny how it sticks with you.

P2: And your hair. When you washed your hair... combed it all out... and... once a week... they called her the nit nurse... came and they combed your hair to make sure you didn't have... you got that at the school as well.

P1: Woah. Was there quite a lot of stigma?

P2: No it was... I think it was just accepted. [Not sure] Just to make sure that everybody... got it. But eh... you wouldn't of thought that when [laugh] [not sure]. [Not sure] what the wee corners are like you know... you didn't have any of this washy hair by this stuff [not sure].

P1: Did you have Sunday roasts?

P2: Ooooh. Not really. Erm... I think... if I remember... eh... it was like steak pie. Eh...I don't remember if we had roast dinner. Chicken I think we had... but I don't... really remember that... eh...

P1: So steak pie is the thing that sticks out?

P2: Yeah that was our... eh no... you had it at New Year as well... that was your New Year dinner, steak pie.

P1: Do you still do that now?

P2: No.

P1: Fair enough. Did you have any traditions when you grew up, any particular days that you had certain things as a treat?

P2: Wednesday was always mince and potatoes. That was every Wednesday mince and potatoes. Cause Mum had got... that is when the butcher came sort of thing, you know, but that was just to make the meals that...

P1: So the butcher came to you?

P2: Aye had a van. You know, came round with a van. Same with the greengrocer, they had a van.

P1: Did you go around and pick things or did they know what you wanted?

P2: No... well... they basically knew, Mum went we weren't allowed to [inaudible] she had it. I never had it right enough cause didn't like it but my granda... it was actually his house that we stayed in. He liked tripe... horrible. You know I remember I had to go and do the... it was my turn to do the dishes and eh... she was cooking this stuff and it was terrible.

P1: Do you remember the smell of it?

P2: Oh... disgusting smell. Eh... you always had that... it was like my younger sister and I... my dad hated... if you eh... you couldn't sit... and then go away and then you had to ask if you were to leave the table... and... like... you weren't allowed to just leave the dishes lying till... after everyone was finished... and if he saw the dish he would go [inaudible] so mum washed and I dried and my sister put away.

P1: That sounds quite nice like a routine or was it dull?

P2: Yeah... no I wasn't really sick of it, cause if you had to do it then your... eh... jobs that you had to do.

P1: Did you have pudding after that?

P2: Mmmmm. Not an awful lot... I think just at the weekends.

P1: What kind of things did you have?

P2: Custard... that is about the only thing that I can remember... and rice pudding.

P1: Did you enjoy it?

P2: I like the... I love rice pudding. But... eh... that's...

P1: And who cooked in your home?

P2: My mum.

P1: And was she a good cook?

P2: Yes. Yeah... [inaudible] cabbage and it I don't think anybody was it was boiled [not sure].

P1: Oh I love a bit of cabbage though, even boiled.

P2: I hated this it looks slimy stuff. She said, "Why don't you just drink the water it will have good inside you?" And It was afterwards when we were growing up... yes... the good is there cause you boiled it. She used to give me raw cabbage [not sure].

P1: Did you prefer that?

P2: Oh I would prefer that.

P1: Like a kind of coleslaw type thing.

P2: Eh... no... it was just... we didn't have coleslaw...it was just the cabbage... cause it was a white cabbage and we would chop it up and I'd have...

P1: That sounds quite nice.

P2: I like a lot of raw veg...you know?

P1: Would you prefer raw veg over cooked?

P2: Some of them yes, I like... I can eat cauliflower raw, I have that in my salads.

P1: Do you think that is linked to your childhood?

P2: Mmmm not... not really. I think I would just eat the cauliflower if we had it. Em [not sure] I know you had to eat... she always put onions in the mince. She started for a while just putting a whole onion in... and she cut it up and gave us it. She made stovies... I hate stovies... I never liked stovies. Tomato sauce and I would eat it that way. "Eh I don't like..." "You've always liked stovies..." "Why do you think I have the sauce?"

P1: So you put sauce on it?

P2: Aha... Practically whole bottle of tomato sauce on the thing.

P1: Do you have traditions or recipes that you pass onto people in the future?

P2: Funnily enough I never put onions in my mince... you know... I chop it up fine. They go in. Start putting in some onions, not a lot. I think it is just [inaudible]. I like baking. Eh... in fact... when I stayed down in Plymouth... eh... I worked in [inaudible] house and I did all the cakes and biscuits and pastry... you know.

P1: Did you have a pasty down there?

P2: Eh... sometimes I had the pasty... but... I've become diabetic... pasties are quite... because pastry... you know... erm... in fact... you think the things you don't... think it would take the time... but like say a potato like size... that is just carbohydrates.

P1: Everything is carbohydrates. How long were you in Plymouth for?

P2: Eh... I went down.. when I got married, moved down to Plymouth... eh... I was there for about a year... we went out to Hong Kong for two years, came back to Portsmouth... well... [inaudible]... came back a couple of years then back to... I think all in all down there I was 18 years.

P1: I went to school in Plymouth.

P2: Did you? What school?

P1: Plymouth High.

P2: My son still stays down there.

P1: Amazing. Whereabouts?

P2: He's staying in Stonehouse.

P1: Would you go back?

P2: No... erm... I always said I would never come back up to Scotland. My sister wanted to come back up... but she stays in Woking now and I'm back. I'm up here. I came back up here after the divorce. Cause there was nobody round about here and my son wanted to go abroad to work with his friend. And after I had made all my plans to come up... his friend said he was

staying with his girlfriend. So he... all his friends are down there so I think... and he was older anyway... he was 18/19.

P1: Nice to have someone to visit and I'm sure he enjoys coming up to see you.

P2: Oh... if I can afford to bring him up cause he's no worked... he was just about to get a job..

P1: Hong Kong, what was that like?

P2: Think Christmas Eve shopping in town and it was like that everyday and even more. My ex husband was eh... navy. It was... it was good. You know... you were on your own a lot of time cause they were on the ship.

P1: Were you quite close with other people from navy families?

P2: Yeah... there was... eh... one... we were on the 19th floor, that went up to 25. Eh.. but It was really good because you went down to the... the naval base, the doctors were there and all the rest of it. They did look after you... you know and things like that.

P1: I won't keep you any longer but thank you so much.