

(Walter) Allan Bampton	Interviewed by Sharon Donaldson 25.2.15
2.30	<p>Living at Thorne Lane since 1972. Before that in a flat on Oakwood Avenue. First property in Gipton Wood Avenue. Before that in St Margaret's Grove for three or four years. In Leeds since 1959.</p> <p>Knows Barry Claughton through taking up the flat.</p> <p>Children went to Gledhow Primary School then Roundhay School.</p> <p>Grandchildren at Roundhay School.</p>
6.00	<p>Wife is teacher – started in Hunslet Boys School. Then got job at Gledhow School. Good Headteacher who was a starter at athletics events.</p>
9.30	<p>Thorne Lane used to be part of Gledhow Wood Road. Got taken to snooker club at Parochial Hall early 1970s. Went regularly with next door neighbour. Joined committee. President three or four times. Got involved in Parochial Hall – sat in their meetings. Joined their committee. Became Treasurer, then took on other roles. Then retired from it. Place has improved since I left.</p>
13.00	<p>3 snooker tables in snooker room. Got free carpet from Austin Reed. Refurbished club. Paid rent to Parochial Hall. Still upgrading everything. Very friendly club. Officially started 1942. Harry Penfold last surviving member of the Home Guard – he joined to get the beer and petrol! Home Guard disbanded 1944. 1942 formed a club and there was no reason to change. Called Parochial and Home Guard Club. Have female members now. Mainly just friendly club. Dominos and cards etc.</p>
17.30	
20.00	<p>Club paid for a fire escape at the back of the Hall. Odd neighbours get upset about the noise. But the Hall was here first! A successful club. Once tried to reduce membership to just over a hundred but at one time we were down to nearly fifty. Just short of a hundred now. Don't all go in together.</p>
22.00	<p>I'm a life member now.</p> <p>Age groups - have sons and their friends but mostly older. Some do drift away for jobs etc.</p>
27.00	<p>Beer barrels used to be under the roof but it could get a bit warm, then in the winter it was too cold. Then made a cellar with refrigerator unit in it to keep beer cool. Have guest beers now.</p> <p>Have competitions. Harry Penfold left some money for the winners. Whoever wins it puts the money behind the bar. Harry gave us a trophy.</p>
30.00	<p>My granddaughter still goes dancing at the Hall – been going there 16 years. A keep fit group, an art group, chess group, judo etc also at the Hall. A hatch in the basement – behind it was full of old camping equipment. No music events in deference to the neighbours.</p>
35.15	<p>The Hall pays for itself through the rentals. Church also pays small rent. Needs to be used as much as possible. Was first building in Fitzroy Drive. Were cornfields there before.</p> <p>Had problems with drains. Mrs Argyle at No 1 said children were playing on bank and there was no manhole cover. We were told it wasn't our drain so we shouldn't pay for cover – ours went into main sewer in Roundhay Road.</p>
42.00	<p>Wanted to borrow some money for club – Arthur Marshall suggested a loan from the bank. I changed us from Midland Bank to TSB (anecdote about</p>

	Midland Bank). Bank they use might have changed again now.
49.45	Changes in Oakwood – Parade less good than it used to be. Fewer shops selling us what we want. Jones of Oakwood took over four premises. Was also a drinking club which closed – run by Bob Milligan, (anecdote about cigars).
52.30	Parade – were two bread shops, Co-op, and three meat shops. Just have Post Office and fish and chip shop left from that time. Had three chemists. Building Societies moved in, then estate agents. Shop at Sainsburys now. Tesco is always crushed – aisles not wide enough. In Oakwood I use opticians, and curtain shop. Occasionally go to Rico’s but no other eating places. Bread shop still there.
58.30	
1:01:30	Why Oakwood? After work I used to get Evening Post and I walked from city centre to look at houses that seemed likely. Found a flat I liked in Oakwood Avenue – owned by the Kirks. You are soon out of Leeds from here. Access to Dales and York area.
1:10:15	Had a break in at club twenty odd years ago – man climbed into roof space, cut a circular hole, dropped onto snooker table, pinched a few things and left the same way. He got caught. He must have known the club so must have been local. Have sheets of metal at the doors.