

Ann Wilkinson	Interviewed by Jeanette Payne 22.10.14
	<p>Born in Nov 1932 in Copgrove Road. Father a schoolteacher at Roundhay School – taught physics and maths. Had older and younger sisters. But when she was 2 her mother died of a heart problem. Wartime, 1940. It was very difficult. A daily lady came in to help.</p>
2.00	<p>Played in wood a lot. It was right opposite. Woodmen mowed grass, could pick blackberries. Now it's overgrown, brambles.</p>
3.15	<p>Played cricket in wood. Trees thinner. More open. No bracken. Loved playing in wood.</p>
	<p>Daddy taught them gardening and the names of the wild flowers. Had a large garden.</p>
4.30	<p>A parade came up Roundhay Road. Ran down to the wall with Daddy and felt like she was flying.</p>
	<p>Used to play kick out ball. Kick can and hop it. Were called in for tea but could play in wood all day. Went through wood to get trams. Didn't queue for trams – stood in a group.</p>
6.45	<p>Tram lines still under car park. They ran every 4 minutes. Always ran in fog and whatever the weather.</p>
	<p>Used to go to the Co-op. Lady came to help from Ilkley – very strict. Tea on the table at 20 past 4. Miss Taylor. Quite harsh. In Co-op Edna was behind the counter. She had to cut squares from 5 ration books – she would write O for orange on book – we divided it between 5 of us.</p>
8.15	<p>At Christmas would go to Dad's mum's house, grandma's house on Ring Road. And Uncle would get stuff on black market, so got fruit on the table.</p>
10.15	<p>Don't remember seeing toadstools in wood like there are now. But there was only one clump of wood anenomes. More butterflies then. Caught them and killed them and pinned them on cork.</p>
12.00	<p>Went to Harehills County Primary School. Loved going to school. Dad was teaching upstairs then. Had 2 dangerous main roads to cross. Walked to school and walked home at lunchtime so did the journey 4 times a day.</p>
14.30	<p>Could play out – played conkers and whip and top. Liked writing. Miss Rushton, the teacher, was kind. Had assembly every day, and prayers.</p>
	<p>At 10 I went to take scholarship exam as a practice. I passed so went to Roundhay School quite young. Thought Roundhay School was wonderful. Had 8 tennis courts, a swimming pool. There were 2 different schools – one for boys and one for girls. Had pool Tuesdays and Thursdays. 800 girls.</p>
20.30	<p>High wall between schools. Tried to be good at school.</p>
24.30	<p>Left Roundhay School at 16. Was there 1942-49. Very disappointed she had to leave. Got job at Wool Industry's Research Centre. Went to Night School. Enjoyed it.</p>
	<p>Got married at 25 and lived in Headingley from 1958. Father died leaving 118 Copgrove Road. There was subsidence so couldn't sell his house. 5 children had left home so moved back to the family home that had been built in 1926.</p>
29.00	<p>Had big garden – grew fruit and veg. Had been empty 3 years. Moved in 1985. Subsistence was because house was built where 2 rocks meet and raft had cracked.</p>
33.00	<p>I worked in the garden and husband was a decorator all around the nearby houses. Like a bereavement when we left house for a flat.</p> <p>Friends of Gipton Wood – I started it with a neighbour. Was a tip, so we</p>

35.00	advertised a litter pick and 50 people turned up in 1999. Had been private wood until 1924. Filled 10 enormous skips. 10 litter picks a year now. Now there is very little litter. People still tip over dustbins. Do a lot of walks. Put paths in. Still so many brambles. Sister spends a lot of time in the wood still. Christine used to go into the Blackburn factory, over the wall.
39.30	Shops in Oakwood. Used to shop with a basket. Veg shop where PC Ideas is now. Also a butchers. Went there on a Thursday. Had roast beef on a Sunday. Post Office was a little house. Liked it – much roomier.
45.00	Local characters – Mrs Briggs. In Gipton Wood she put her arms around a tree to stop council cutting it down – called it ‘the dancing beech’. Was 30 years ago. About 3 or 4 years ago the top of the tree blew off. No-one was hurt. Some of tree still there.
48.00	