

David Donaldson	Interviewed by Roundhay School Students
5.15	<p>Simone and Edina – moved from Redcar in 1976. Will be 64 this year. Lives in Elmete Close in sight of St John’s Church. Took children to park a lot – football, kites, walks, poo sticks. Sledging from below Mansion to the Arena. Used to be a 4/5ft high wall which shattered the sledge. A scout leader so takes scouts grass sledging in park. Street festival – parades around Soldiers’ Field, caused a lot of upset, used gardens as toilets.</p> <p>Retired in 2001, worked away from home a lot. Didn’t know much about what was happening locally, but now he feels it has a terrific sense of community. It’s a stable area, people stay.</p>
8.00	<p>2 of his children were born in Oakwood. Leisure activities – Oakwood church and youth groups. Activities around Parochial Hall. Bowling, football, cricket. Lots of opportunities to get involved. People meet in cafés in Oakwood. Busier now. Fewer individual shops. More supermarket shopping. Used to buy more things locally.</p> <p>We live in a nice part of a nice place. Have family nearby. Clock was gradually deteriorating. Everyone knows Oakwood Clock, it’s a symbol. Uses library.</p>
12.45	<p>Used to go to Fortune River, a local Chinese restaurant.</p> <p>Would recommend Oakwood as a place to live – it’s a mixed community. All ages and communities and cultures. Everyone mixes in. Eldest 3 children went to Abbey Grange. Younger daughter went to Roundhay School. Has become an exceptional school.</p>
15.30	<p>Fiercely loyal to Oakwood and Roundhay. Goes to Tesco to shop. Sharon used to shop at Safeway and the local shops. Shopping at Tesco is based on practicality rather than loyalty.</p> <p>First house was in North Grove Rise - £9500 in 1976 – worth about £200,000 now. Then moved to Elmete Close – 4 bedrooms - £55,000 in 1986, worth about £300,000 now.</p>
20.30	<p>Sharon could stay at home with the children. Has 4 children. Quite unusual – 2 seems to be the habit.</p> <p>When I was young I used to clear straight off after breakfast and come home for tea. Different now – children spend more time inside. Kids are missing out.</p>
24.30	<p>When young I also read books and watched TV. I didn’t miss the technology. Communities are more vibrant now, it’s more exciting. There is more housing now and there are a greater number of older people are houses have been converted into care homes.</p> <p>Neighbours – they are friendly but they are not close friends. We mix at Christmas etc.</p>
27.45	<p>Had a Street Party in late 1970s/early 1980s which was a locally organised event. I was involved in the Parents’ Association for St John’s School. We used to have a butchers and greengrocers but now we have more hairdressers etc. People have more cars now.</p>
	<p>Ella and Sophie –</p> <p>It’s a brilliant place to bring up children. One son has come back here to live. There is more traffic now. Social activity has increased. Was an accountant for BT.</p> <p>Became a scout leader and also does Scottish dancing and belongs to a walking group. Chair of community team, does an art group. We see people we know in</p>

36.15	the street, it's nice to be part of the community. We don't use many of the local shops.
38.30	There is a terrific continuity in our local history. People know each other, and look after each other. We use the park a lot. Feels like we are not in the city. Scouts do biking, skating etc. Children do more organised activities now. I enjoyed climbing trees as a child – less organised. Being a Scout Leader has been terrific fun. We do more sophisticated activities now – go to climbing walls etc. They still like to light fires.