

David Rattee	Interviewed by Iain Macniven
	Memories of Oakwood from 50 years ago. Born in Manchester 1949. Moved to Leeds 1963 in bad winter. Very cold house in Leeds. No 1 St Catherine's Walk. House had been empty and there was a foot of snow in the garden. I was 14 and started Roundhay School just around the corner.
3.00	Oakwood was a remarkable place. Was in a large detached house with an orchard, on the edge of Roundhay Park. Oakwood a genteel place. Park was on the edge of the countryside.
	Now a massive amount of traffic. No traffic then.
6.00	Shop frontages changed. Remember library, then Lloyds Bank, a garage, the fish and chip shop, Midland Bank, the Post Office, Wilsons Greengrocers (I knew Mrs Wilson). Jones of Oakwood was one small shop. On other side was a chemist, Crocketts Dry Cleaners, and a bakers (where biscuits were sold by weight). Then
8.30	last shop was a barbers – I had my hair cut there. He also sold and mended umbrellas.
9.30	Went to Roundhay School. Clock was where we congregated for rugby games when we were playing away. Bus stops were there. One of prefect's duties was to control hordes of boys as they departed from there.
	Tram tracks were still there. Remembers Park because they had rugby pitches. Had green cabins – a target for arsonists.
13.00	Big events – Leeds Gala, the Printers' Gala. Preferred Park when it was empty. Sledging and skiing in winter.
14.00	1963-68 in Leeds. Had first job in Leeds as a labourer. Left Oakwood in 1968 to go to University. Married in 1970 and we got an apartment off Park Villas opposite Canal Gardens. Used the buses. Parents stayed in Oakwood until late 1980s.
17.00	Re-alignment of road system. Place became unloved and rundown around the clock. Nice to see it's on the up.
	Oakwood unique. Have to cope with traffic now. Great that people of Oakwood are looking after it.
19.30	I saw cycle racing in Roundhay Park in the Arena. Oakwood is a major junction with Wetherby Road. Affects the ambiance.