

John Harrison	Interviewed by Jeanette Payne 20.1.15
3.30	<p>Born before Second World War. Lived in St Margaret's Avenue until 1965. Early memories of Oakwood – played out with friends. Was a quarry at the end of St Margaret's View. Had a fence between quarry and Fitzroy Drive but there was a path through woodland and you played on the path with a great drop a few feet away. Quarry disused then.</p> <p>Had quarries down Gledhow Wood Road. Boy fell down and broke his jaw. One quarry was used. Was a house next to it, which was unused because it was next to the quarry. Were cracks in our own house walls because of quarry.</p>
6.30	<p>First day at school, mother took me, but only that once. School only 100 yards away. Missed school because of scarlet fever. Gledhow School had 3 rooms and 3 teachers. Miss Wilkinson the Headteacher. Miss Brown was in the middle room and infants had different teachers, a turnover of teachers. Miss Bell there but ineffective. Miss Brown was an old school marm, Miss Wilkinson was more intellectual. Curriculum limited. Had gardens at the school. Were on right hand of the school, we each had our own section of garden. Grew lettuces and took them home to mother. Grew flowers next year but only moderately successful.</p>
9.50	<p>Miss Wilkinson taught Esperanto after school for those who wanted it. Never remember her hitting you but Miss Brown hit us with the ruler. Class sizes – not that many in each class. Two years of pupils were taught in each room. About 100 children in whole school. Pretty well taught. We played games – football, cricket, hot rice. Hot rice – we stood in a circle with legs apart. Bounced ball and went through legs, and that person was 'it'.</p>
10.45	<p>Cricket ball often went on roof and we would climb on roof to get it. No supervision in lunch hour.</p>
11.45	<p>No school dinners – everybody went home. In seniors we had to go back and wash up for teachers after lunch.</p>
13.00	<p>Had to pass 11+ to get to Roundhay School. Took exam Feb 1950. Ones who failed were very upset – boys would go to Harehills Secondary Modern. Very different environment at Roundhay School – not genteel. Boys more uncouth. First 4 days at Roundhay School I was ill so that held me back in several subjects. Never got good at Physics or Chemistry. Some masters good and others bad and couldn't keep order.</p>
17.05	<p>Mr Hinchcliffe, History teacher very good. Taffy Hughes History teacher. Freddy Crowther good maths teacher.</p> <p>Left Roundhay School at 18. Had taken A levels. Went to Leeds Uni which was another big change. Upsetting for first year.</p>
20.10	<p>Tram track came down from Roundhay Park next to Soldiers' Field. Track next to wood. People queued from track back to Oakwood Clock. Another track to Clock cinema.</p>
22.40	<p>Dad came home in 1952 when tram had crashed and he saw the aftermath. Driver had gone to toilet and tram started going. Conductor jumped off. It went down to Oakwood, went off reserve track and hit another tram. Other tram set off, driver unconscious and one of passengers managed to stop it. No-one killed but there were injuries.</p>
	<p>Shops at Oakwood – went to Co-op the most. Co-op was at bottom of Gledhow</p>

24.45	<p>Rise on the right. Mother got orders delivered and I went down and paid for it in 10 shilling notes. A bit unusual to do that. They called me The Colonel. I also got my dad's cigarettes. Then I'd go to butchers next door, with meat still on ration. Went to fish shop in my teens, I'd cycle down and get fish and chips. Garside and Pearson took it over in 1950s.</p>
27.30	<p>In 1940s, about 1948, Govt abolished sweet rationing and I cycled down to Oakwood to get sweets and they'd nearly all sold out. Went to Bee Hive and bought a Mars Bar for 4d. 3 chemists – Nortons, next to Dr's house, Blights, Timothy Whites and Taylors. Perkins.</p>
31.00	<p>Got bread from Mrs Greenwood's on Thorn Lane. Post Office at end next to Oakwood Lane. Papers sold at newsagents, further up from Oakwood Travel. Got papers from Dovers next to Gipton Hotel. 1940s one shop on Thorn Lane opposite lodge to Roundhay School, just in a house. Mrs Greenwood mother and Miss Greenwood daughter. They were there in the war. I got sweets and bread there. Miss Greenwood a bit tart, Mrs Greenwood very pleasant. Then in 1950s they built shops opposite. Drivers was a greengrocers and there was a newsagents. Milligans wine merchants.</p>
34.45	<p>St Margaret's Avenue – house where I was brought up. It was a semi, still there. Lovely views at the back over the gardens of houses in The View. 2 bedrooms and a boxroom. Built early 1930s. Pebbledashed then. Paving stones put down outside. Copper beeches in front garden, 3 of them. Hut in the back garden with a rabbit in it, 1945/6. Rabbit kept escaping. Used to pursue rabbit over gardens. Mr Knight a professional gardener, got very annoyed. Threatened to shoot the rabbit. Released the rabbit in Roundhay Park.</p>
37.30	<p>Not vastly different in Oakwood today. Glad clock is being repaired. The clock is Oakwood. Glad Gipton Wood is still there. Go to Tiffanys café. Oakwood Travel helpful. Don't want any revolutionary changes to Oakwood. Public toilet would be good.</p>