

Margaret Plows	Interviewed by Jeanette Payne 26.11.14
3.30	<p>Nee Thirsk. Born at Hyde Terrace. Lived at The Lodge, Roundhay Hall, now the Spire Hospital, in Jan 1951. Father had lived at Roundhay Hall at 1929/30 as an apprentice gardener. Lived in a bothy. 1946 – mum and dad went to live with brother Tom in Oakwood after dad served in Burma during Second World War. Applied for job as a gardener at Roundhay Hall. Renovated The Lodge. Lived in Old Park Road for a while as house was empty and got requisitioned, until Lodge was ready. Hall became school for nurses. Built a nurses' home in walled garden. Before that it was a convalescent hospital.</p> <p>Was christened at St John's Church and was named after two nurses. Childhood spent roaming the grounds at Roundhay Hall. Followed dad around at weekends. Was a tied cottage. Had to look after greenhouses at weekends and feed the boilers in winter. Arduous in the summer. Couldn't go away – had the odd trip to the coast.</p>
7.00	Went to Gledhow School. Stayed until 7 then went to Talbot School. Came home for lunch. Then went to Allerton Grange School. Hated primary school.
8.30	<p>Liked secondary school. Then went to Park Lane College.</p> <p>Remember the smells in the Co-op – the bacon. Remember black and white tiles, a bacon machine on the left and the cheese counter.</p> <p>Mum used to give the manager flowers. He used to give her bananas and extra fruit and sugar to bake fruit cakes. Place felt light and airy – high ceiling.</p>
11.30	<p>Also went to Nortons the Chemist. Right in the top corner. Didn't go to other 2 chemists. Went to Doctor on Oakwood Lane. On second roundabout. There were 3 houses on the right, opposite Epiphany church. There was a doctor, a dentist then the optician.</p> <p>Mother and father married in 1934. Mother had 2 miscarriages then postwar she had me after 4 years. She mollycoddled me and Dr Walden was forever at our house! He was so nice. He had a drawer full of chocolates for the children.</p>
16.00	<p>Dentist next door – Mr Fraser. Got the number 38 bus to the Doctors.</p> <p>Connection is with St Edmund's church. Grandad buried at St John's church.</p> <p>Went to the swimming baths a couple of times – really cold.</p> <p>Autumn my favourite time – went chumping in Roundhay Hall grounds with a pram. Friend lived on Gledhow Avenue so we did bonfires there in their big garden.</p>
19.30	Collected leaves and conkers. Collected things in the wood. Had a bit of garden of my own.
23.45	<p>Snow used to drift – the boiler broke at Allerton Grange and the school shut.</p> <p>Ann Webster had a sledge and we walked across Soldiers' Field and did sledging on Hill 40, not Hill 60. Took our own children sledging. Hill 40 comes down from the Mansion towards the Arena.</p>
31.00	<p>Summer activities – up to age 10/12 the field was hay and it was mown and we could crawl in and make dens. At friends' houses we made badges and pretended to be horses jumping over the jumps. Treasure hunts in gardens.</p> <p>Skipping, hula hoops, marbles. Played monopoly.</p> <p>Boating lake – we used to go on little lake with paddle boats. Was in Brownies at St Edmund's. Also went to Sunday School in the afternoon.</p> <p>Briefly went to Guides but didn't like it and it clashed with youth club at St Edmund's.</p>

35.30	<p>Auntie Peggy was a local character – she zoomed everywhere. She stayed at home with 2 other sisters and they adopted 2 children of the eldest boy. Took Rowena and I blackberrying at Shadwell. She was so nice to everybody. I remember the trams vaguely. Dad came home from the war and asked for a fare that no longer existed.</p>
38.00	<p>Shoe shop – there until 1980s, and was also a Co-op, a greengrocers, a butcher and Nortons.</p> <p>Trevor’s grandfather worked as a steward at the club above Rico’s. He was called William John Bond and was a trained mechanic. Was a chauffeur and worked at Blackburns during the First World War. Had part of a propeller beside his bed to deter burglars! Club was on Boundary Road. He used to bring old packs of cards home from the club. He set up a garage where the dry cleaners now is, and the eldest 2 boys went in too, but it didn’t work out – was probably in mid 1920s.</p>
42.00	<p>In the 1920s everything was delivered to you at home – orders were collected and then delivered. There was a yeast man.</p>
47.30	<p>Shops are different now. In 1990 I did a survey on Oakwood and took photos of the shops – there were about 5 or 7 estate agents then, but there are fewer now.</p> <p>Joined Oakwood library and went regularly as a teenager. It feels the same now, and the garden is the same.</p>