

Sharon Donaldson	Interviewed by students from Roundhay School 12.1.15
2.00	<p>Lived locally since the 1970s. Don't think Oakwood has changed very much. The things you do change as you go through life. Had a young family when I came here. I walked 20 mins to get to the shops. Husband did the main shop on the bus. Can take prams on the buses now, it was a nightmare before. Local shops were important then. Went to Safeways but it wasn't very cheap. Husband shopped in Leeds market.</p>
5.00	<p>Went to the local church, Roundhay Methodist, to take children to toddler group. Walked in park, picnics. Didn't drive so walked places. Got involved in playgroup at Parochial Hall. Helped as a mother. Became playgroup leader later on. Went to Thomas Danby College for 2 years and became a nursery nurse, then had my 4<sup>th</sup> child.</p>
6.30	<p>Live in the Elmetes off Wetherby Road. Neighbours have stayed there. They develop as families and they stay, as we have done. I have developed as a person through meeting lots of people. Was born in the countryside and then moved to Redcar. Terrified of coming to Leeds. Lives of children have changed now, more than those of older people – they get driven places now, they don't have the same freedoms.</p>
8.00	<p>Came here to a semi-detached house with a big garden. It took a long time before I called Leeds home, but it's home now. I'm happy here. I'm on the outskirts of the countryside.</p>
11.30	<p>Am involved in local history. Husband does church's webpage. Done my family tree and the history of St John's. Have written personal histories of soldiers who died, which is very interesting and sad. Have 8 grandchildren from age 2 to 16. 2 of them live locally. A lot of teachers in our family.</p>
13.00	<p>Have no specific memories of the clock. I thought it was interesting but it didn't mean anything to me at the time. (Students refer to eating fish and chips under the clock. Use it as a meeting place). Have enjoyed going to the park as a mother with children. Didn't have nights out, so a walk around the lake was a nice thing to do. We still walk there now.</p>
14.00	<p>Canal Gardens has changed a lot. Not keen on the gift shop at the entrance. Lake was drained for a long time. Had a police guard because there was a suggestion that guns had been dumped there. They never did find anything. Madonna was in the park. We don't like the park when it's busy.</p>
20.00	<p>Simone and Edina – I live a 15 minute walk from Oakwood. It's an area for families. Properties don't come on the market very often - people there are getting older. 2 new families moved into our road recently. Favourite memory – is Oakwood church. I'm not religious but I'm involved in a nostalgia group, and we also walk with a group once a month. There are about 30 walkers ranging from their 40s to their 70s/80s. That has changed our lives because we meet local people much more. Have made good friends within the walking group. Also do Scottish dancing. I think there is a good community spirit. Our youngest daughter went to Roundhay School. Our granddaughter has lots of friends locally in Oakwood. They use the clock as a meeting place. Older people – there is a community</p>

23.30	<p>spirit in our circle but I'm not sure whether that's true for others. I want to build community spirit locally. Our older 3 children went to Abbey Grange because at that point Roundhay School didn't have a good reputation. People are more aware of community spirit now – it's important to get the message across that there are lots of things to do here.</p> <p>Would be nice if there were fewer eating out places in Oakwood. There are fewer other shops now. Bit disappointed in the shops. Go out sometimes to eat Chinese – restaurant has changed hands now. Don't eat out much though. Sense of community is different rather than stronger. When you walk places you meet more people, it's not the same when you drive or go by bus.</p>
27.15	<p>There are harder challenges as a parent today – there are more pressures on people. Both partners need to work to achieve a standard of living. Everything costs such a lot of money now. We couldn't afford holidays or to eat out. We had one car. We did things for leisure that didn't cost a lot of money. We went walking with the little ones. We had our family young.</p>
32.30	<p>Fiona and Emily – My in laws lived locally so we knew the area before we came. The park and the housing attracted us here.</p>
36.00	<p>I run the nostalgia group as an after luncheon club for older people. Has helped my confidence. Learnt more technology.</p>
42.15	<p>We don't go in and out of neighbours' houses all the time. Mostly people work and are out all day. We are as close to our neighbours as we want to be. We don't know everybody on our road. Last year a neighbour had a party for everyone on the street and there were some people we hadn't spoken to before or didn't know their names.</p>