

Stephen Webster	Interviewed by Edna Murray
2.30	<p>Proprietor of Oakwood Fisheries, opposite Oakwood Clock. Involved in business since he was 16 when father purchased premises in 1977. Father owned motor dealership next door. Stephen is aged 51 this year. Lots of changes in Oakwood for the good.</p> <p>People remember courting under the clock with fish and chips in their hand. Great memories of years gone by. Clock is a landmark. Our shop is a listed business, since 1986, under a Grade 2 listing.</p> <p>We offer good quality menu. A traditional fish and chip emporium.</p> <p>Looking forward to refurbishment of clock.</p>
4.00	<p>Businesses – local butcher, proper chemist, a hardware shop, all gone. Many things have disappeared due to supermarkets, like the good greengrocers.</p>
5.30	<p>Rolling Stones concert in the Park – first ever concert – amazing success. The Michael Jackson, Madonna, Robbie Williams. All a success story. Brought many people to us. Had actors staying at local hotels – would come here to get food. We are an original business – with historical Art Nouveau design. From stories told it seems like the shop had to shut for periods during the war – shop boarded up – can see signs of that in the shop now.</p>
8.00	<p>People should look at success stories that we used to have. No need for 10/12 estate agents. A good chemist, hardware shop, butchers. Those shops worked well. More people here in area, so this could work again.</p> <p>Farmers’ Market – better quality food. Based around the clock – very attractive site. We get business from it. Couple of wine bars, nice atmosphere, local families use them, can stay local.</p>
10.30	<p>Dad died 1988. Next door was petrol station and retail car business. I got involved in fish and chip shop firstly to buy a small motorbike. We’ve managed</p>
11.45	<p>to keep it a success. Local trade comes back every week. Great trade from the school. Use us as a meeting point. Larger number of 6th Formers now – they sit under the clock – eat chips at lunchtime. People still come back and visit when they leave school.</p>
13.30	<p>Clock will be a superb landmark for Oakwood, really excited about it.</p> <p>Too young to remember trams. Does remember when they dug up car park and it exposed old tram lines beside the clock. A great memory of how it used to be.</p>
15.00	<p>Went to the Astoria – did a charity evening and local businesses were asked to donate prizes for event – I went. It was a special night. A landmark dance hall, now gone. Denis Healey was frequent customer in the shop.</p>