

Stewart Sheean	Interviewed by David Donaldson 4.12.14
2.00	In area since 1972. Oakwood Lane, Fearnville Ave then Oakwell Mount in 1989. Roundhay Pub used to be in wife's family. When moved into Oakwell Mount there was a 'call bell' system in the property. Found underground air raid shelter. House built 1924. Quarry close by. Henry Bellwood Ray sold land to Henry Lax in 1922, for £3129, 27 acres, from Roundhay Road to Gledhow Lane. An access way was left to the quarry. We are fourth owners after the original ones. Area built and developed for upper middle class people, professional people – chemists, solicitor's clerk, wine merchant.
10.00	Houses in Ravenscar were quarrymen's houses.
12.30	Air raid shelter put there during Second World War – found it by accident. Opened it up when we had the patio done. Brick built – 8 x 10 feet. Mattress frames still there. 10 feet away from the house. Steps down to it. Was lighting in there, small fireplace. Dry and decorated. 6 – 9 inches of concrete on top with steel supports.
18.30	House very close to Blackburn factory so you would feel vulnerable. Changes in Oakwood. Changed not for the better. Miss the local shops. Remember garage next to the Post Office. Was a haberdashers, a greengrocers. Not sure charity shops and estate agents are the right shops for people to speak to each other. Everybody dashes through a supermarket. Was a chemist shop. Jones of Oakwood was useful. Could even buy needles for record players there. People can park for two hours for nothing and rents are cheaper than in city centre.
21.45	We have tried to restore the house – put picture rails back. A tree lined street.
25.30	Everybody has room to put a drive in. We have become a rat run from Roundhay Park to Roundhay Road, to miss out the traffic lights at the clock. School generates a lot of traffic. I'm not anti-car but rat runs are not so good.
28.45	We know 5/6 neighbours on the street, but children can't play out on the street now, due to traffic. We do have a community here – we have a street party and shut the streets once a year. Also gather at Christmas or New Year. We moved so girls could go to Allerton Grange School. (Discussion on neighbourliness and sense of community).
33.00	A suburban area. Different approach to neighbours than in a small village. It's a nice area. Roundhay Park a fabulous place.
38.15	Daughters went to Allerton Grange school because wife taught there and she knew school well. School instilled a need to succeed. Not far from Parochial Hall. Girls went to playschool there.
45.15	Got co-opted on committee for new school on North Lane (Roundhay St John). It was a bespoke design. Looks quite nice in the setting. Great place to learn.
51.00	Pleased to see flats above Jones of Oakwood were refurbished. Not too sure about Lloyds Bank. Not a lot of features – a concrete box. Fine old properties along Wetherby Road. More properties are changing into care homes, they are only people who can afford the upkeep.
55.15	Gledhow Hall and some properties in Fearnvilles have glazed brick that look like Burmantofts brick. Stopped making pots in 1904. Local Harehills stone used. Bay window above Ricos says 1901. No high rise flats in Oakwood.
1:05:00	Infill development is going in the wrong direction. Bungalows ok but not flats.

	Would like to think my house will still be standing in a hundred years. I feel strongly about the area I live in and I like to defend it.
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