

Trevor Plows	Interviewed by Jeanette Payne 20.11.14
3.30	Aged 68, born in 1946. Gledhow Wood Ave – mother had lived in Gledhow area her whole life. Went to Allerton Grange School – left at 15 to work for GPO telephones as an apprentice engineer. First job was working with gang who put poles up. Worked at Olympia Works. Wholesalers used other end of the building. Started work at 7.30am every morning. First job was to fill water container on van so they could make tea! Dug holes and heaved weights. Hard physical work.
7.30	Had more freedom then as a child. Came to Sunday School at St Edmunds. Went round locally on bike. Roundhay Park – you could run around in park. Got tram every Sunday to library at Chapeltown. Area very familiar to me. Lidgett Lane and Gledhow Lane were dual carriageways with land in the middle to walk on. Oakwood Clock was the landmark.
10.00	Oakwood was a community in its own right. Self contained. Oakwood was our main shopping centre. Pharmacy with wooden drawers – old fashioned. Took umbrella to be repaired at the hairdressers in early 1960s. Went to Post Office – because they did vehicle licensing. Telephone exchange was where Lloyds is now. Was a classic GPO design. The building was demolished. In the 1980s the Olympia Works was still a GPO depot.
15.45	I was running the maintenance dept then, and was looking at water use (excessive bills due to a dripping tap!). The Oakwood Exchange could cope with about 5000 lines. Oakwood was then closed in favour of Moortown Exchange.
22.00	The Astoria was another landmark. My mother danced there. It was a function place when I knew it. The Gaiety cinema became a pub. I didn't go into the Astoria. I went to the Clock cinema. Aunt used to take me as a special treat. Had a red plush interior. Also went with Margaret when we were courting 1970/71. Became Empire Electrical – I bought electrical items there. Went to Jones of
27.00	Oakwood for repairs to be done.
30.15	Roundhay Park – 2 big lakes with rowing boats and paddle boats. Did radio controlled model boats on there too but it's prohibited now. Had sailing boats on
32.00	little lake and powered boats on big lake. Flew model aircraft on Soldiers' Fields and flew kites there too, on 1000 feet of line. One came down across the Arena where there was a cricket match on! Park more open now than it used to be. Had a little ride-on railway. Was a maze. Quite a treat. Also Children's Day. I went to a couple of those. Brother was in Marine cadets and went to a show there in the late
34.45	1960s, marching. I went to photograph it. Never went to swimming baths in the park. Mother talked about it. Dam was interesting. Came back in 1980 when children were 6 months and three and a half.
38.30	Went to Bonfire Nights – freezing cold. St Edmund's Church – mother married there and I was christened there. Went to Sunday School there too, in the afternoon, then to grandma's for tea. Did sledging at Roundhay Park in the winter.
47.15	Mother saw whole area built. She was born in 1914. Developers sold plots rather than rows. Gledhow Park was properly laid out in a rectangular grid. To maximise number of houses on the land.
51.15	Park has played a big part in my life. Went to White Horse pub for Christmas Dinners from work in 1990s. Went to our local fish shop, always on a Friday night.

53.15	Would get fresh bread from a Jewish bakery. Clock – provides shelter. A landmark. It's unusual. Unique to Oakwood. A natural meeting point. Busy junction.
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