

Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
1	FP020401	17/2/04	JOHN THOMSON	Ellon	Helen Taylor

John Thomson was born in 1915 at Brodie Brae Croft, Woodhead, Fyvie, the youngest of seven children. His father was a farm worker, and his mother worked on their croft. They had hens, a cow and a calf for dairy products, grew their own vegetables. They had no electric power but used parafin lamps for light, and had to go to a well for water. The village of Woodhead also had parafin lamps that were stored in the stables near the village hall, and were looked after by a lamplighter. John mentions the people who lived and worked in the village, talks about his schooldays at Woodhead School, his time in the boy Scouts and when he had an accident from hitching a ride on the outside of a motor car - cars were very rare in those day. He remembers the Travellers who camped in Windyhills Quarry and how they hawked around the doors in the village. The Woodhead Dramatic Society put on plays for entertainment. John worked on farms when he left school and bought a new bicycle with his wages one term. His father died at the age of 66, so he went back to help his mother on the croft, then got a job as a postman, which he stayed in until he was called up to fight in World War 2 which he did in Germany. He later recalls the telephone and electric coming to the village and the croft, getting his first car and goes back to remember how their male schoolteacher, Mr Davidson, didn't strap girls properly for punishment but put his hand over theirs and hit his own hand.

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2	FP020402	24/2/04	GEORGE BISSET	Fyvie	Helen Taylor

George Bisset was born in 1930 and brought up at Woodhead Croft near Woodhead. He remembers moving to the croft at the age of five and how it was a bit of wreck but had all the original features like ceiling cornicing and the like. They had a range which gave them heat for water, the water was collected at the Gushetneuk well, and the water barrel was pulled back to the house on a sledge called a 'puddock' by their horse. George remembers the Philips' family's croft having running water and electric light from a Delco Lighting set and also used glass jars to generate electric - this was known as a Leyden jar. George's lighting was from paraffin and later Tilley lamps. He can remember going to his neighbour, Alex Pratt to listen to the wireless and hear radio comedy shows like 'It's That Man Again'. He talks about their croft and how it was very self-sufficient, with hens, pigs and bees. George thought the hens were happy enough in batteries, which people began to use because the people who bought the eggs complained about eggs being dirty when the eggs were free range! George remembers the types of houses in Fyvie and Woodhead, a few thatched, wooden, and 'poored hooses' which was a house with a wooden frame with concrete poured into it. George goes on to talk about his schooldays, and how he went to secondary school in Turriff. When he left he served an apprenticeship as an electrician in Turriff which was expensive as he had to pay for accommodation as well. He recalls going home at weekends on his bike to help at home as his father was working in the flax factory. He and his father set up a small generator to power lights around the croft which he said was the best thing ever because the wind couldn't blow out electrics lights on snowy, stormy nights. George joined the RAF in 1951 as part of his National Service which was earlier deferred while he was doing his apprenticeship. He describes the four years in the RAF as 'the best holiday I ivver hid'. He recalls being in London at the Festival of Britain and being impressed by the whole city and the exhibitions. After being in Melksham, he was posted to Kinloss, and then was posted to Rhodesia (modern day Zimbabwe). He remembered seeing Victoria Falls from the plane and not realising what it was. After being in a flying training school at Bullowayo, the government decided the RAF camp would have to be disbanded. George decided to go to Cape Town, South Africa, but was able to see the centenary exhibition in Bullowayo in 1953. He was on a ship back to the UK on the 18th December 1953, remembers it snowing when they reached Southampton in January, and then finished his service at RAF Leuchars in Fife. George then talks about the Windyhills wood being cut down after fires and his father working there, also the Windyhills Quarry. George remembers the dances which were to raise money to pay for hot school dinners, and his friend Charlie Reid who loved dancing. He remembers Sunday School and how great the music was at Fyvie Kirk, George became an elder there in 1959. He talks about going to the Brodie Brae well on his bike with his friends and the bridges crossing the Ythan, Doolie's Brig, Blairies Brig and Otter Brig. His friend Sandy Reid fell into the Ythan at the Doolie Brig and was saved by Sidney Clark. Helen and George laugh about the ladies having

nicer toilets at the old Free Kirk in Woodhead. George speaks about Helen's uncle and father, the Philip brothers, whom he knew and how her father owned an old Essex car which he used the drive-belt to power his saw mill. He goes on to talk about Smith's the tailor's shop in Woodhead which was always warm because of his iron needing heat. George mentions electric coming to Woodhead, then goes on to talk about Helen's father again when he was 'blackened' before his wedding which was a traditional rite of passage where the groom would have his feet covered in bootpolish, soot and any other messy substance. George talks about Willie Falconer, a local character who had a loud voice and could be heard right across the village. He talks about others also. He remembers that he met his wife at a dance in Woodhead Hall, and it was she who had come with a friend from Auchterless after her mother had said she might never know who she would meet, and so she did.

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3	FP120503	04/12/2005	SIDNEY ROSE	Ellon	Val Fowlie
<p>Sidney begins by talking about Formartine United football club and how it was formed by Eddie Edmond, who was a millwright from Pitmedden. He himself played for Whitecairns to begin with. He remembers his friend Bobby Sneddon, who had just signed for Deveronvale FC in Banff, and whose father owned the pub in Udney Station, also Fiddes Grey who was another great player, and playing for Whitecairns they beat Eddie's new team. Eddie was able to persuade Sidney to join Formartine eventually. They held dances to raise money for the club and Sidney himself would collect people in his car to save money. He says he played for fun and avoided difficult tackles because he didn't want to get injured. They played against teams from Aberdeen and the local area. Sidney was a farmer and owned a pub in Whitecairns. He talks about licensing hours, and how it benefited his pub since they were allowed to stay open an extra half hour at night to begin with. He mentions how his mother was very well known and could speak to her customers for hours, they would also go down to the cellar and collect kegs of beer for her and be given a dram of whisky for their trouble. Darts teams and pool leagues were good for business because people spent more on drink. Life in countryside had changed because people can buy cheaply in supermarkets and drink at home. Fear of being caught for drink-driving now. Val asks how the pub got into the family, but then Sidney goes on about harvesting and bad winters. They grew oats on their farm, and some barley. Sidney's father was encouraged to grow sugar beet because someone came from the Sugar Beet Corporation and asked if he would. Talks about how it was cut specifically so as not to damage the crop, the crop was sent by train from Newmachar station on a certain day. Sidney's father was one of the few people that ever grew it in the North East. Sidney speaks about the tractors they had, the first being a Fordson in 1940, and how implements were needed to add on so they could do various jobs on the farm like ploughing. He remembers that his father previously used the horses to do the ploughing. Talk carries on about binders. Early tractors didn't even have a cab and it was lonely work until they had cabs and people were able to take radios in with them. Mentions the new brands of tractors from America and elsewhere. Ends saying that tractors are being made cheaper now.</p>					

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4	FP020604	13/02/2006	JIMMY DICK	Abbeyfield House, Turriff	Pat McKay & Ian Sandison
<p>Jimmy was born on 20th November 1911 at Mid-Bodiechell, Fyvie. He only moved out at the age of 90 when he went to live in Abbeyfield House. Jimmy talks about going to school at Greeness, walking one and a quarter miles to get there and how the children were 'a good lot'. He spends most of the interview talking about his working life the farm, at home with his father from 1927 when he was sixteen, he even slept in the chaumer with the other workers. Bodiechell was 84 acres in size, which was typical for a farm in that time. Although he worked hard, his father didn't pay him much at all. When Jimmy got married, his wife moved to Bodiechell. They knew eachother from primary school. She kept hens and looked after them, selling eggs in Turriff to help with the household income. Jimmy mentions the use of Leyden jars for generating electricity and using a generator. They had Tilley lamps for light. He recalls a terrible winter during World War 2 when it snowed for 11 weeks. There were delivery vans for groceries and the like, so there was no need to go to the shops for food. He recalls stealing his father's tobacco when he started smoking a pipe and he himself did not stop smoking until 2001! He does not miss farm work after having had an accident with his horses during a snow storm, when he hurt his shoulders, and says the farm was better without them. He was also scared to walk between the cattle when they were in the byre. He ends by remembering how the nearest doctor was in Cuminestown and how he would visit people on a cart drawn by a Shetland pony. People had to go and get him as there were no phones, so life is 'different aa'thegither' since then.</p>					

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5	FP020605	27/02/2006	LEWIS CAMERON	Abbeyfield House, Turriff	Pat McKay & Ian Sandison
<p>Lewis (pronounced Louie) was born on 11th October 1924 in a shepherd's cottage at Chapelden, Pennan, Morayshire which no longer exists. At the age of four he moved to Towie of Aberdour, to a different farm owned by the same farmer for his father to work. He went to Aberdour school and had to walk two miles, and when the family moved to Ednie, St Fergus at South Kinloch farm. They had another shepherd's house and he had three miles to walk to school through the fields. He was 14 when he left school and went to work at Blackhills Farm Peterhead which he really enjoyed because the people were so nice and fed their men well. He stayed there seven years. He describes the staff at Blackhills, how the farmer, Mr Robertson taught him about horses and cows because as a shepherd's son, he knew nothing about it. He was very friendly with the 'kitchie deem' and took her to the cinema in Peterhead during their time off. He observes 'the broth aye tasted sweeter efter I'd been oot wi the kitchie deem'. At the age of 23 he went to work at Earlston of Cruden Bay where he learned a lot about human nature! He was foreman and was asked to complain on behalf of the other workers that they weren't getting fed enough - he was spoilt by the good food at Blackhills - when he talked to the grieve (the head man at the farm below the farmer) they did get a pudding along with their lunch afterwards. Lewis recalls that the half-day was only introduced before the war, so he made sure he was finished his work early - on a Sunday he would go home to visit his family. He worked at Crookedneuk, Longside as a cattleman when he met his wife there. He then spent six years at Milton of Rhynie on a sheep farm. He then worked in Morayshire where he said he made his fortune, as there were few shepherds there and he was treated like a king. He was able to lease a farm called Dubford in 1960. He went into working with pigs. He stayed at Dubford til 1984 and his son also worked with him there. Louis tells of how he never missed the famous Aikey Fair - a horse fair outside Old Deer on Aikey Brae. He also tells the story of how Aikey Fair started with the 'tinker' who fell in the burn and while drying his goods was able to sell them - after that the hawkers came to sell goods every year. Lewis then speaks about how older men missed the horses, and how it was hay and corn that ran the country 70 years ago, now it's run on oil. He recalls how much he liked Dubford and Morayshire and how his oldest daughter went to school at 'the College of Roseisle' which was just an ordinary school but was called 'the college'. He had three children. Interview ends with Ian Sandison saying 'It's fine tae hear a Buchan loon spikkin about Buchan' as he is from Strichen himself</p>					

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6	FP030606	27/03/2006	MARY WEBSTER	Abbeyfield House, Turriff	Pat McKay & Ian Sandison
<p>Mary was born on 30 January 1908 at the Richmond Arms Hotel Rhynie, which her father owned after he returned from the Boer War. She recalls her father did a number of jobs after that, including working as a manager for the local forestry near Aberdeen, farmed at Damhead, Portsoy, Morayshire, and was a factor at Ladybrooks of Fairley near Cults, where Mary went to school in West Cults. She recalls that she always wanted to be a nurse and after school she worked in a chemist in Banchory until she was 18 and old enough to go to nursing training. She started her training in 1927, and worked in various hospitals including Aberdeen City Hospital, Woodend, Dundee Materntiy, Kings Cross Fever Hospital, and Edinburgh where she qualified in 1935 as a Queen's Nurse and went to work in Dundonald in Ayrshire. Mary talks about the discipline and cleanliness in the hospitals then, and about treatment for tuberculosis. She says Matrons were the best thing ever in hospitals because they ran everything. Mary had a burst ulcer in 1937 and was in danger of losing her career but instead of having an operation, she went on a special diet. Her friend Edna in Turriff was a district nurse and it was agreed Mary would come and help her, and she started there in 1939, and was in Turriff for 31 years til she retired in 1970. Mary talks about how hard the work was pre-NHS, and how people paid 4 old pence for the nurse. Their pay improved after the NHS started, but they could be on call 24hrs a day and only had 21days holidays and were paid less than hospital nurses. She talks again about maternity work as a district nurse and tells two stories about 'tinkers' giving birth in the field and in a barn. From Dundonald there was lots of maternity work, Mary says there were 13 cases a week in Barrhead, and how squatters would be giving birth on the floors! No-one had a child in hospital then. The doctors only came to help when necessary and a Dr Roach would ski to remote cases during winter. Mary compares todays student nurses with her day and how hard they had to work. The Queen's Nurses no longer exists, but the nursing college of Queen Margaret is still run from Edinburgh. She says she would do it all over again despite it being different. She recalls her colleagues who made her laugh and could get into trouble from the Matron. She again criticises modern nursing training for giving students too much head knowledge before they do any practical. The interview ends with Pat thanking her, and Mary saying it was a good talk</p>					

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7	FP040607	10/04/2006	FRANK DAVIDSON	Abbeyfield House, Turriff	Pat McKay & Ian Sandison
<p>Frank reads his lifestory after Pat introduces him. He was born in 1915 on the Orkney Island of Gremsey, in a croft. He describes the land around the croft and on the island, and how without a pier it was difficult to transport cattle, which were taken across in small boats. Frank says every crofter had fishing boats, and that a boat was necessary for transporting groceries and essentials. Neighbours worked together hauling boats and launching them. Fish were plentiful, but because of the unpredictability of the weather, they only caught them for their own use, but lobsters could be caught and sold, making up to £20 a season. He talks about the local newspaper on the islands, 'The Orcadian', but even with that it was hard to communicate with the outside world, and it was the late 1920s or early 1930s that the radio came. Frank says how they were self-sufficient on the croft, how women were 'heroines or slaves' as they did everything else on the croft including harvesting, planting, haymaking, baking, cheese making, looking after poultry, spinning, knitting, washing. Everyone went to church on Sunday, but they weren't a 'religious community'. He talks about the scuttling of the WW1 German fleet at Scapa Flow in 1919, then about the weddings of five girls whose brother had a large farm of 160 acres. He didn't like school very much to begin with because the teacher liked to strap people a lot. He liked listening to the higher classes doing their reading because it was stories he enjoyed. He remembers how the lighthouse keepers' families added to the school numbers (there were two lighthouses). The children made money by gathering small shellfish and snaring birds (which Frank says he was not proud of). He then describes the floating shops from the merchant, Robert Garden of Kirkwall, who sent them with groceries, drapery and meal to the outer islands once a fortnight weather-permitting. It was suspended during the First World War, but when it came back the sloops had auxiliary engines which helped keep them stable in poor seas. Another family took over this enterprise in the early 1920s, J &amp; G Smith, and their ship 'The Gleaner' served the islands up to the 1930s. Frank recalls leaving school just in the time of the Depression and the 'Hungry Thirties', he went to the fishing and helped his father on the croft, his father died and he had to take over the croft. He inherited his grandmother's croft in 1938 on the north side of the island which was better. He then goes on to talk about World War 2 and how the blackout made life very depressing when you could see no light from other islands. He discusses the air raids over Scapa Flow - very nice description of the silence afterward. Frank married in 1941, 8 years later he took over his brother's croft next to his grandmother's and now had 40 arable acres and 30 acres of 'good outrun' and he could keep his motor boat in Stromness harbour which was only a mile away. He describes the ten years he was there as 'the happiest of my life'. They had cows, calves and hens. They eventually moved to Aberdeenshire in the 1960s because the children had to go to school on the mainland after age 12. Frank ends by saying that when he goes on the ferry in Kirkwall, he remembered his great grandfather, James Davidson had done the opposite of him a century before, leaving Aberdeenshire to set up a fishing station on Burray.</p>					



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8	FP070608	18/07/2006	MAY FORBES & PAM LEDINGHAM	Ellon	Anne McQuarrie

This is a very rich example of the Doric dialect from Pam & May talking about various things including lifting neeps from the farmer's fields as children and finding ways to eat them, how consumption dykes were a way of using up all the big stones that came out of the ground when the ploughing was going on. May explains the expression 'Full an' face ben'. They talk about 'local worthy' Neil Ross, who owned various businesses in Ellon, and discuss the prices of things including sweeties like conversation lozenges and Ogopogo Eyes. Pam remembers queuing during the rationing and when she got to the head of the queue the shopkeeper told everyone left that everything was sold out! Pam recites her own Doric poem about the minister - this is a hobby of hers and she recited poetry at the WRI. There are footnotes for the Doric words used in this transcript

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9	FP090609	07/09/2006	IAN SANDISON	Deveron Road, Turriff	Helen Taylor
<p>Ian was born on 26 May 1936 at the Station House, Murtle, Deeside, but his parents were both from in and around Aberdeen, he has one sister. His father was a signaller with the railways all his working life, and it was a result of moving jobs that the family moved to Strichen near Fraserburgh, where Ian grew up. Ian started his working life as an engineer and joined the Merchant Navy after his apprenticeship. He talks about childhood in Strichen and how idyllic it was, he was train-mad, but when he left school his father told him the railways were finished, so he decided to go to sea instead. Ian mentions that his grandfather was in charge of the moving of cattle for the railways. He goes on to talk more in depth about his apprenticeship from the age of 15, this leads into the story of his tuberculosis scare in 1952 which landed him in hospital for a year! After that he worked in the Consolidated Pneumatic Tool Company in Fraserburgh to finish his apprenticeship. Ian also talks about troops in the war being stationed in Strichen; his time in the Merchant Navy; the difficulty getting a job as an engineer; moving to Aberdeen once he got married; different jobs they did; moving on to Strichen again, working back in CPT and later Turriff as a 'fuels inspector' for MOD (1973), which took him all over Scotland; he then worked for the Water Board in scientific analysis, and after that retired. Ian goes on to talk about his hobbies, trains, jazz music (he also played the tuba) and gardening; the interview ends with Ian talking about the dances at weekends, learning to do Scottish Country dancing, his teacher Bert Ewan, who ran buses to the dances in various places in the Buchan area; big bands in the Beach Ballroom; his three loves in life are 'choo choos, Jeannie and jazz', but he doesn't care to say in which order they come!</p>					

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10	FP100610	25/10/2006	KATHLEEN NOBLE & LIAM TAYLOR	Fyvie	Helen Taylor
<p>Kathleen was born 29th December 1918 at Woodhead Farmhouse, the only baby of the family to be born there as her brothers had all been born at Brodie Brae. Kathleen's father, George Philip, (who was Helen's grandfather, Kathleen is Helen's paternal aunt) had a grocery shop in Woodhead village and her mother was known as 'Bonnie Jeannie Innes' for her good looks. Kathleen talks mainly about her love of poetry coming from her father who was very keen on Scots words and corresponded with the Scots Dictionary people, telling them about words he knew of. She learned her first poem the 'Carlin fae Cyaak' which was written by Alexander Murray of Bonnykelly, (the poem according to Helen is found in a book called 'Mair Swatches o Hamespun') at the age of four. She recites various poems from Flora Garry, Charles Murray, J.M. Caie, J.C. Milne and Peter Buchan, as well as remembering a glamorous new teacher they had at school called Miss Ross who introduced her to the poetry of Walter De La Mare and others, and being made to learn a very long poem called 'Mary of Scots' about Mary, Queen of Scots, by her auntie as a punishment for talking in church. Kathleen describes the May King and Queen ceremony that was held at school where the two children voted the king and queen wore floral garlands on their heads, and were followed by the rest of the children through the village and up to her father's shop where he gave them sweeties. Helen and Kathleen between them then do a line by line translation from Doric to English of J.C. Milne's 'There's Aye A Something' about a couple who are as different as chalk and cheese and their children's manners take after their slovenly farmer father! They go on to discuss a Travelling woman, or tinkie, Meg Pom that Kathleen recites a poem about, then Helen says there is a picture of her in the Fyvie Heritage room at the school. Helen's grandson Liam then is asked to recite part of the 'Carlin Fae Cyaak' which he does so after being very reluctant to give permission to be recorded.</p>					

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11	FP110611	07/11/2006	BETTY KELMAN	Kintore	Helen Taylor
<p>Betty was born on 29 December 1923 in Woodhead, had two older brothers, and came from a farming background. She begins by talking about the family croft which her father took over from her grandfather; schooldays, teachers, how her grandmother taught her to knit; Scottish Country dancing, which consisted of lessons through the week and a dance at weekends; animals on the croft; how the house was heated without central heating; bad winters and having to walk in the snow when it was as high as the dykes; shops in Woodhead; the water supply; Betty talks about how silly she thought it was that her parents took the family a two mile walk to the church in Fyvie on a Sunday when there was the Free Church in Woodhead! She goes into more detail about the services and Sunday School; Betty returns to talking about school and the lack of lunches; She speaks about knitting for Christmas presents; how she remembers a neighbour, Mrs Gordon knitting with four needles and using a knitting sheath to hold the needles while she worked; her own father's horse and gig and where he went with it; Helen asks her about food, meat and how her mother made lemonade; Betty worked on the croft after leaving school as her mother was ill, and she talks about enjoying working with the cows and calves. She then goes on to talk about her married life and the farms/ crofts she and her husband lived on up to 1984 when her husband died; they go back to talking about children and poor weather; Betty remembers her wedding day and how she had to go to the outside toilet in her underwear before getting ready with her dress!; She recalls how people did not ever incur debt by buying on credit, if they couldn't afford it, they didn't buy!; Betty talks about her grandparents and their lives, her own children, the Woodhead drama group; she ends by saying how she met a lad in Canada that was the cousin of her Sunday School teacher Miss Annand, and Helen agrees that it is a small world!</p>					

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12	FP110612	09/11/2006	CATHERINE YOUNG	Fyvie	Helen Taylor
<p>Catherine was born in October 1937 at the Station Lodge, Fyvie. Both her parents worked on the Fyvie estate. The Station lodge was so named because it was at the bottom of the hill which lead to Fyvie Station, which was a branch line from Inveramsay and went to Banff. She talks about the goods that were carried on the train, and what her father's actual job was, being lorry man and assistant chauffeur to the Fyvie estate, the Forbes-Leith family. Catherine talks about her mother being head housemaid at the castle until she got married. She had been in service all her life and had been working in the Borders before coming back to Fyvie. Catherine talks about her childhood having the run of the castle grounds and how she was friends with the soldiers who were convalescing at the castle during the war because it was a temporary hospital; she didn't see her father for seven years during the war because he was away in the Middle East, and how she was so glad when he came back because she got on best with him. Catherine speaks about her childhood more, and transport, who worked at th station and what they did, school, blackout, bombing raids during the war, games, skipping, ball games and rhymes with the games, chasing games, building slidies in the winter. The second CD continues with more memories of school and how she got a medal for being Dux of the school. She speaks about how her father had to collect Lord Snowdon once from Aberdeen Airport and was overwhelmed by the crowds of people there. She describes the shops in Fyvie in detail, the halls and function rooms, the PoW camp and how the prisoners were put to work locally, the hospital in Fyvie. Catherine remembers doing drama and making costumes, the cars her father drove, then goes on to speak of her career as an art teacher which began with her art degree at Gray's in Aberdeen, she had to have jobs in the holidays to save money, and has been lucky enough to always work in the local area. The latter parts of CD Catherine talks about Girl Guiding, her involvement with the church, how she was involved in starting the heritage room at Fyvie School and the artefacts they have. She remembers getting chickenpox at a flower show in Fyvie as a very young baby, and ends by talking about the usefulness of Latin in understanding flower names, and how people did not travel far from home.</p>					

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13	FP110613	22/11/2006	JOHN SLACK	Turriff	Pat McKay & Ian Sandison
<p>John was born on 18th December 1916 in Alexandria near Glasgow, and five miles from Loch Lomond; his father worked there as an insurance man; he had an older sister, Peggy and brother, Zander and a younger brother, who was mad about motor cars; His father's company, the Prudential, moved the family around a lot in John's childhood. He talks about the different places they lived, including Clydebank, Shetland - which he loved - Govan - where he went to Bellahouston Academy, Dumbarton. John trained as a sanitary inspector, which involved training as a plumber first; he explains how the training worked; he then goes on to talk about his studies towards the inspector's job; John was in a reserved occupation as a plumber, but he still wanted to do something for the war effort, and he tells how he joined a volunteer company consisting of plumbers, engineers and other tradesmen, his training in the Borders in 1940, and his experiences with the Royal Engineers in the Middle East including the journey to Egypt in various ships; John's memories are very detailed in this part, including memories of the Egyptian locals in the desert, visiting Jerusalem, fun and games with capturing things on patrol that would never do him any harm!; the Italians and their arrogance; CD1 ends with John talking about defending the road near the plain of Thermopylae. CD2 continues with more wartime memories in the Middle East including their company being taken prisoner by the Germans in 1941, the conditions, how they were starving on the march, and John was so hungry he ate a sheep's brain (track12), how they were marched around Greece by the Germans till they reached the PoW camp in Ceylonica, and then onto Wolfsberg in Austria. This again is a very detailed reminiscence of a terrible experience which John appears to have survived very well, even being bombed by the Americans in the camp! His enduring memory of coming home was coming off the train at Dumbarton and being welcomed by his old maths teacher. John even returned to the Army for a year in the Education Corps down at Stratford Upon Avon; after leaving the army he picked up his training as a sanitary inspector since he could not carry out his wish to become an art teacher. He then moved to Turriff as Aberdeenshire council paid better than anywhere else and never regretted it, but his wife never settled.</p>					

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14	FP110614	23/11/2006	MAY & ROBERT STOREY	Fyvie	Helen Taylor
<p>May begins the interview; she was born in Edinburgh as was Bob, they knew each other from school in 1928! Bob worked for Sir Ian Forbes-Leith, the laird of Fyvie Castle, as an accountant and private secretary; they were married in 1949 and moved to a cottage, Mill Cottage, on the estate, after a horrible time adjusting to the bad winter weather; May talks about the difficulty of getting used to a house with no electricity after being used to modern conveniences in the city. She talks about their neighbours and Bob's colleagues on the estate, moving around houses on the estate, the changes in the village and castle since 1950; Bob's work with the laird; May begins to talk about her work with the Cubs, how she got involved in it and her experiences there with the boys, training new leaders, camps and the like; Bob then talks about his memories arriving in Fyvie in a hard winter, his car, a Ford 8, working with Sir Ian; the dances held by the Forbes-Leiths; interesting visitors; the staff involved in the castle's upkeep; how he thinks Robert Lovie is doing a good job managing the castle in the present day. Bob tells Helen the story of the Laird's Pew in Fyvie kirk, and the Tiffany windows; he also mentions the Forbes-Leith's family memorial in the churchyard; he ends by responding to Helen's comments about the Fyvie curse on the family and saying he thinks it's nonsense!</p>					

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
15	FP110615	24/11/2006	MAUREEN SINGER	Ellon	Helen Taylor
<p>CD1 begins with Maureen recalling her move to the Barnyards of Delgaty at the age of 5 in 1936, when her father became grieve (chief man on the farm in the absence of the farmer); she talks about school and her attempt to get home without having a clue how to get there! Maureen talks about food, diet, cooking facilities her mother had, washing machines, Tilley lamps for lighting and freezing cold bedrooms; she remembers her childhood games and hobbies, and friendship with the Norwegians who came to live at Delgaty Castle who taught her to ski. When Maureen was twelve she had to look after the whole family when her mother went to help her grandmother and great-grandmother, and she recalls her first cooking disasters; Maureen recalls the family move to Esslemont, and her dislike of Ellon school as they had done different work from what she had done previously. This resulted in Maureen beginning to work in a hotel in Aberdeen, which she said was a real eye-opening experience; she then talks about working in service at Newmachar, which she enjoyed; she goes on to talk about her work at Udney Castle as a maid which was well-paid; how rationing affected the staff's flycups; leisure time at dances; reading; she left when she got married, and then talks about how her husband had poor fare for his meals at Bethelnie farm; they then moved to Fasque House near Fettercairn, and Maureen recalls how good it was, goes back and talks about her wedding; CD2 begins with Maureen talking about living and working at Wardford, Methlick where her husband was grieve; she speaks about transport, leaving the doors open safely, church in Barthol Chapel, housework, cooking with a paraffin cooker, Spring Cleaning, visitors, how no-one had any holidays, Christmas wasn't held generally, Hogmanay was more popular, doctors, knitting - Maureen contracted for Pringles in Inverness, but was not very well paid for all her hard work; She then goes on to talk about her retirement and how she has taken up painting, joined the WRI at Newmachar, took part in their concert party, after learning to play the guitar, storytelling and recitations; she recites one of her own pieces; the interview ends with Maureen recalling a story about sweetie rationing, how folk had a sweet tooth, and ate very well, because they worked so hard and could work it off.</p>					



Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
16	FP120616	06/12/2006	KATHLEEN REID	Stonehouse, Gight	Helen Taylor
<p>This is primarily the story of Kathleen's husband, Charlie Reid, who was a blacksmith. Charlie has also been interviewed by Methlick Heritage Society (FP120790). Kathleen begins from when they were married in 1965, and says that Charlie was working with his father, Charlie and that his grandfather, Adam Reid, had retired in 1946 and was still alive at that time. Charlie and Kathleen had a son, Charles in 1974, who runs the smiddy with his father today. Kathleen begins the history of the smiddy, when her husband's grandfather took over the smiddy from a Willie Mutch, who had rented it from Haddo House estate. Adam eventually bought the smiddy, had a large staff, and Kathleen's father-in-law Charlie was the first of the sons to work at home and also be born at the smiddy. Kathleen talks about the original building built in 1897 by Willie Mutch, the one built in the 1960s, and a brand new one built a hundred years after the first one. She talks about the schooldays of her father-in-law and her husband's grandfather, how he had other business ventures including steam engines and threshing mills which also brought income, the handcrafted tools they used, billing of customers, jobs they did, large and small, to help the local farmers alongside shoeing horses, how her husband never got to shoe horses because working horses were being phased out, so the older farmers wanted his father to do the job! She talks about her father-in-law's time when he took over the smiddy, the working day, workers' diet, Charlie's grandmother, who had 12 children and was very self-sufficient, how the boys of the family moved out to the chaumer when they were old enough to work, the social life in the 1940s and 50s. She then goes on to talk about her husband's time, when he left school at 15, in 1949, how he built a water wheel to generate electricity, how he was deferred from National Service being an apprentice, and how Charlie went to Ramsay Technical College in Edinburgh and learned about welding, engineering and the like, which created improvements at home. Kathleen discusses the changes in farm technology, how Charlie got involved in building work as things modernised, and fully took over his father's business in 1974, but his father worked up till his eighties. She then speaks about her son, Charles whose degree was in structural engineering, and has worked at the smiddy since 1995. Kathleen says that there is very little need for the traditional blacksmithing skills now, as people just get new parts instead of fixing what they had, but Charlie branched out into welding and engineering and brought the smiddy up to date since the 70s, their current work is mainly in buildings and erecting structures for the farms locally. She mentions how the oil industry's higher wages took away a lot of their workforce, how there are Polish people working for them, how they occasionally repair items for oil firms as well as buildings onshore, and the one other local who is involved in similar work, but is termed as an agricultural engineer. They can supply one-off parts to farmers for their tractors. She then talks about her two-year-old grandson, Cailean, who likes to play with nuts and bolts. Kathleen finishes by talking about her father-in-law making shepherds' crooks for shepherds who worked in Hyde Park in London, where there used to be flocks of sheep.</p>					

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
17	FP010717	04/01/2007	IAN McCURRACH	Turriff	Ian Sandison
<p>Ian is introduced as living in Turriff and begins his own story recalling his working life as a train driver and fireman with locomotives from steam to diesel and electric. Ian says he was born in Spey Bay in Morayshire and how the sight of the trains coming from Elgin to Aberdeen fascinated him, and he wanted to be an engine driver from then on. The interview covers his first job as an engine cleaner in 1947 at LNER for Elgin Loco., getting the chance to be fireman on the single line to Cairnie Junction, being fireman at Ballater, the jobs that had to be done there in terms of journeys, how he did his 'rules examination' to become a driver in 1956, then how he moved to Corkerhill Depot in Glasgow in 1959 as electric and diesel cars made him redundant in Ballater. He describes the trains, jobs and journeys from Corkerhill, how steam was superseded by diesel and the team at Corkerhill were trained on the new engines, which were very clean compared to steam, and all the wonderful engines he worked with and what they did. He ends by saying he had an exceptional timekeeping record, only once sleeping in on an early shift in his whole forty-nine years service on the railway. There is a glossary with the transcript</p>					

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
18	FP010718	11/01/2007	DAVID (ARTHUR) WILKIE	Cowanden, Turriff	Ian Sandison

David was born in Udney Green and moved to Turriff aged 7. He is known as Arthur, rather than David. He talks about his experiences in the Navy from 1942 til the end of the war; he started in New York, then ended up in the Mediterranean based in a Royal Navy base in Algeria, was involved in the invasion of Sicily and says his life was saved by a lifejacket given to him by a docker in New York. He then returned to the UK in 1944, and was training to be a frogman or diver in the navy when the war ended.

Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
19	FP010719	13/01/2007	Dr. ALEXANDER TAYLOR	Fyvie	Helen Taylor
<p>Dr Taylor was born in Fife, his father was a banker; didn't live long there, moved to Aberdeenshire, went to Banchory Academy, then Aberdeen Uni to do a medical degree, which he graduated in 1950; he talks about his first job in Orkney as a GP, then when married, moved to Lancashire to work; patients mainly miners who were suffering silicosis; did that for 3 years; Dr Taylor went back to work in Orkney islands; worked in Balfour Hospital, Kirkwall, which only had one surgeon, resulting in the GPs having all the work to do; transport was via boat, lifeboat or ferry; moved to Aberdeenshire so children could go to secondary education on mainland; He then spends the rest of the interview talking about his time as a GP in Fyvie, from when he first arrived and was presented with a property 'Ythanside' by Sir Ian Forbes-Leith of Fyvie Castle, as the previous doctor's house was needed for Castle staff, to the challenges of running a practice in a parish with 1700 patients which would increase when Rothienorman was added. Dr Taylor talks about the people in Fyvie, living conditions in the village, common ailments, the new Fyvie Health Centre, incomers from the oil industry to the village, prescription medicine, the Fyvie pharmacist, Aberdeen Medical School, how he became a medical examiner for the Civil Aviation Authority in 1973 and carried on that duty til he retired in 1993. He was able to keep up his interest in medicine after being appointed Chair of the Grampian Health Care Trust; he bemoans the lack of community spirit compared with the early days in the village, and says people don't know each other any more, he ends by praising the medical staff in hospitals today after going in for an appointment himself; his son and grandson are both doctors and he says he would do it all again given the chance, but perhaps work in hospitals instead</p>					

Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee(s)	Location	Interviewer(s)
20	FP010720	19/01/2007	SARAH CLARK & JILL DELDAY	Turriff Academy	Sarah Clark & Jill Delday
<p>The interview begins with Sarah asking Jill about her family's 'ghost', the spirit of Bella who lived in their house when her grandfather bought it. She was evicted and while still living said she would return, and Jill's family believe she has, as her grave is two miles away from their home. Jill recalls strange things that have happened in the house which have been attributed to Bella the ghost, and even has experienced seeing her as a shadowy figure in the mirror. Jill ends by saying she would be too scared to visit Bella's grave. Jill then asks Sarah about a Guide trip she made to Germany, being selected to represent her troop from Scotland along with ten others. She describes the excitement of being chosen and how she met many guides from other countries and swapped neckerchiefs with a Swedish Guide because she so loved the colour of the other girl's one. There is a glossary with the transcript</p>					

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
21	FP010721	21/01/2007	MACKIE BRUCE	Barthol Chapel	Judith Sleigh
<p>Mackie came to Barthol Chapel School as headmaster in 1975. He retired June 2004. He and his wife came from Kemnay. When he arrived there were over 50 pupils. The number decreased but then increased again to over 40. Mackie lives in Barthol Chapel Farmhouse, originally a farm, now a house in the middle of the village, about 200 yards from the school. The original school (dating back to mid-1920s was beside the old graveyard, in what is now a house, the Old Hall. It had 3 or 4 classrooms. In 1936 a new school was built, a timber frame, harled; about 100 pupils. The school which exists in 2007 was built in 1968, across from the 1936 school. (summary by Judith Sleigh)</p>					

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
22	FP010722	25/01/2007	KATIE HENDERSON	Ellon Academy	Nicola Boyle
<p>Katie is interviewed by her classmate Nicola. Katie was born in 1989 in Dundee. She has one sister. She talks about her family background, what her parents do for a living, the family's involvement in Ellon Parish Church, how she moved from Dundee to Ellon at the age of four, her schooldays in Ellon and her hobbies. Katie's interests include the Haddo Choral Society which she enjoys and has performed in musicals put on by them, she is also a musician, plays the trumpet, worked as a junior leader at the Brownies and also worked at the Balmedie Care Home where she discovered an interest in the stories of older folk, which has given her a further interest in History, but she would like to be a journalist as she enjoys writing. She feels that Ellon has strong communal spirit, which is why she thinks she would like to go to Glasgow as they have a similar spirit from what she has heard.</p>					

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
23	FP010723	27/01/2007	BILL & AMELIA JAFFRAY	Barthol Chapel	Judith Sleigh

William (Bill) and Amelia Jaffray live in Miltonlee, a cottage beside the farmhouse on Milton of Fochel farm, at the roadside a mile east of Barthol Chapel. Both are in their seventies; their son, David, lives in the farm and their daughter, Carol, in Pitmedden. Bill was born on his father's farm, Castlehill, at Skelmonae, near Methlick and went to Carinorrie Primary School and then to Methlick; his father bought Castlehill from Haddo Estate in the great sell-off of 1918. The Jaffrays (father, Bill and his brother) bought Milton of Fochel in 1953 (132 acres); they paid £50 per acre (approx. price per acre in 2007 is £1,700). It is a mixed farm. They bought their first tractor in 1947 and had to go to the Ministry office in Aberdeen to get a certificate. Amelia (Bruce) was born and brought up at Denhill of Keithhall near Inverurie, went to school at Keithfield Primary School, then to Inverurie. She took a book-keeping course at Webster's College in Aberdeen, then went to work for Ledingham's, the bakers, Barclay, Ross and Hutchisons (farm/seed merchants) and then worked in Inverurie. They married in 1959 at Keithhall Church and the reception was in the Kintore Arms in Inverurie. Amelia has long been a staunch member of the SWRI.



Rec No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
24	FP020724	02/02/2007	STEVE MURDOCH	St Andrews	Fiona-Jane Brown

Steve was born in Aberdeen in July 1964. He has one brother. His father's background is Huntly and his mother was from Buckie, a fisher family. The family moved to Belhelvie in 1972 when Steve's dad, Campbell bought some land and decided to build his own house, being a carpenter to trade. Steve speaks about how his dad lived in Strathdon during the war, and how his paternal grandfather was a baker; Steve talks about the house being built, more about his dad being brought up with Steve's grandfather - as Steve's paternal grandmother had died when Campbell was young; mention of the war-time pill boxes being blown up on Balmedie beach; interesting neighbours on the farms, how he liked to talk to the old folk, the beach and playing there in shipwrecks as a child, school, how he wasn't sporty and liked to read books, his uncle Ron and his electronics, how his mother helped him have a cosmopolitan outlook on life because of her love of visiting places, as did his uncle Harry who had been in the Merchant Navy; Steve speaks fondly about his mother who died in her fifties but was a dynamic, busy person who ran a concert party through Belhelvie WRI, and also had a high powered job in the oil industry. Steve also speaks about his love of Doric and the locals who inspired him; working on local farms, lambing, traditional farming skills, how he came to start university late in life after doing various things including gamekeeping and competition shooting, being inspired by a woman who was later to become his wife Alexia; he talks about being at university, doing Celtic and History and then going on to do his PhD in History. He now lives in Tayport in Fife as he teaches at St Andrews University, and talks about how Fife reminds him of Belhelvie, which leads on to talking about writing a history of the parish for the Millenium; Steve explains his interest in Gaelic, how his grandmother in Buckie knew Gaelic from hearing the Gaels at the fishing in the North East, taking evening classes in Gaelic at College taught by Bill Blacklaw, speaking to old Gaelic speakers when he worked in Lewis and how they taught him archaic words, interviewing Gaelic speakers in Cape Breton, Canada. He then gives his opinion on Donald Trump's golf development at Menie, environmental concerns about the future, how he doesn't want Balmedie beach to turn into a 'Las Vegas strip', and how it annoys him that the people who now own his father's house painted it pink, but he will keep coming back to Belhelvie as long as there are people to tell him stories about the past.

Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
25	FP020725	16/02/2007	JACK LARNACH	Inverbervie	Fiona-Jane Brown

Jack was born at Dyce in 1923, and lived at Parkhill, Dyce until he was 14. He played football from school upwards for local teams, playing for Oldmeldrum before joining Formartine United. He was a gamekeeper to trade, working on various estates in the North of Scotland, then had a fish and chip shop in Stonehaven until his wife died of cancer, then he worked as a ghillie on the River Dee fishings, but was forced to stop because of his own cancer treatments; his sisters worked in Dyce. The name Larnach is from Caithness and Jack says he's been told some folk from the family own Larnach Castle in New Zealand; he talks about how he started work at Little Fintray and worked up. Jack says his main loves are 'fishin', shootin, and fitba" He talks about the start of his footballing interests, and how Formartine United Junior football club began, started by Eddie Edmonds of Pitmedden, and his experiences with the team. He recalls the early strip was green and white like Celtic's strip, which is unlike the present strip; different games he remembers, playing five-a-side since there was money in it; how Eddie Edmonds held dances to finance the club, the bands that came, behaviour on the field, referees, changes in the present time, how he still follows the club in the present day himself; Jack then goes on to talk about the changes in time brought by the oil industry, sporting estates, shooting vermin, how guns were part of the countryside life long ago, gun licencing in the present day, the change in types of people that can now afford to go out on sporting estates to shoot or fish. Jack recalls many friends he made and experiences he had at angling, also the folk in the nobility he's met, who were nicer than some television celebrities! Jack talks more about angling and fly fishing which gave him something to look forward to after his wife died. The interview ends by talking about the great views Jack enjoys out of his window at Inverbervie, and the great times at Formartine United JFC.

Rec No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
26	FP020726	20/02/2007	ROBERT REARIE	Barthol Chapel	Judith Sleigh

Robert Rearie was born in 1924 and his family moved to Balgove Farm in 1931, when he attended Barthol Chapel School (the old one, built in the 1920s). There were about 100 pupils, including 22 children from Kirkton Farm. Teachers include William Day (headmaster), Mrs McIntosh and Mrs Cheyne. Mr Day lived in the School House and the other two teachers in the School Cottage. The children used to go to Fyvie's shop for sweeties.

Robert left school at 14 and worked on several farms, including Keilyford, Chapel Park (near Methlick), Earlsford, Hatton Slap, Craigie's (near Tarves), Banks (where he moved to in 1953 when he got married) and finally Flinthills. He lived in a chaumer, sometimes on his own and sometimes with other men and had meals in the kitchen; he got a cottar house when he married Lily, whom he met when at Craigie's.. He went to work for Aberdeenshire Council in 1980 and now lives in Port Elphinstone. There used to be horse market at Barthol Hill, which stopped in the 1930s. Robert was church beadle at Barthol Chapel from 1972 to 2005. The church was built in 1975 by the Gordons of Haddo in memory of their son who was lost at sea. His duties were cleaning the church, opening up for services, christenings, weddings and funerals, checking the heading, tending the grounds, etc. Nellie Fyvie (Fyvie's shop) was the organist for many years.

Ministers at Barthol Chapel:

1876-1878 Rev. James Forrest

1879-1924 Rev. Robertson Sutter

1825-1927 Rev. W. G. Robertson

1928-1935 Rev. John McLean

1935-1958 Rev. W. Cowper Robertson

1958-1963 Rev. Charles Stuart

1963-1978 Rev. Alisdair Macdonnell

1980-1991 Rev. William Murdoch

1991-1999 Rev. Leslie Barrett

2001-2004 Rev. Alan McKean

2007- Rev. Isobel Buchan

The Manse is now a private house, the Firs. The ministers live in Tarves as the two churches are joined.

Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
27	FP030727	01/03/2007	ERIC MUTCH	Aberchirder	Pat McKay & Ian Sandison

Eric was born in 1931, the youngest of four, having two brothers and a sister, at his father's farm in the Parish of Rayne. He begins by talking about what his brothers did for a living, and how he and his brother Leslie took joint-tenancy of a farm on the Newton estate and ran it until Eric left to get married in 1955 when he moved to Burnside of Whitefield where he started with cattle. He talks about owning two other farms locally today and he and his son work them. Eric speaks about the changing prices of crops, stock, sheep, how tractors have made life much easier and allowed him to keep working in his 70s. Eric then talks about the Turriff Show which he has been involved in as secretary for 19 years along with his wife, covering the history from its early days in Markethill to when it was held in its current stance of the Haughs in 1918. He mentions how people from all over the world to see it, the changes to the days it is held, the traders, the sports arena, the horses, the 'Sulkie Trots' which are 2-wheeled horse cars that race. He then speaks about climate change and how farmers are actually benefiting from warmer winters and less bad snowstorms, and ends with he and Ian Sandison talking about garden flowers which have blossomed early.

Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
28	FP030728	03/03/2007	TONDIE (JONATHAN) DAVIDSON	Barthol Chapel	Judith Sleigh

Tondie begins by explaining how he got his nickname from 'John D', born 13 February 1927, at Burnside of Keillyford, he had seven sibilings. He was named for his maternal grandfather, Johnathan Henderson. Tondie recalls his schooldays, beginning at Barthol Chapel and then going onto Meldrum School for secondary. He left school in 1941 when the family moved to Tarves, and began working at Fochel meal mill, which he describes in detail including the water supply, for which they had to open the sluice gates at the dam every morning. He talks about how many mills there were in the local area, and when they closed from the 1960s onwards. Tondie then speaks about his National Service, beginning in 1945 at the very end of the Second World War; going to Langham in England to train for ten weeks, sailing to Algiers, then Tripoli, where Tondie got to be batman to the Intelligence Officer, which ended up being very comfortable for him! He mentions 'The General Danced At Dawn' the George MacDonald Fraser novel, which was a good fictional example of the army life there. He carried on to a posting in Egypt which was hardly so much fun. After this he went back to work at the Mill, then worked with his father before taking on the lease at Nethermill. Later he became a builder, and would eventually move to a house he had built himself. He explains his father was a builder before him, and talks about the work his father did, as well as how he built his own house. He then talks about his sibilings, the threshing mills that were taken around the farms to grind the wheat, his mother, how the children were born at home only with the help of a midwife rather than a doctor, food, washing of clothes and themselves, the water supply and what folk did on Sunday. The interview ends with talk about Hogmanay, presents, ploughing matches, and the games he played as a child 'we made our own fun'.

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
29	FP030729	05/03/2007	DOUGLAS PATERSON	St Andrews Church, Turriff	Ian Sandison

Douglas was a souther (shoemaker) to trade and was born in Gardenstown, or Gamrie in Morayshire. His family moved into Macduff, then his father got a job at the Turriff Gasworks, and he recalls thinking it was heaven to move to a house with an inside toilet! He speaks briefly about school, and how they roamed about freely as children. Douglas then talks about his apprenticeship as a souther with John Shand & Son in Turriff from 1952. He recalls how hard his father was on him when he had hurt his ankle, but his father said 'ye dinna work wi yer feet, ye'll jist gang tae yer work', and his brother had to push him in a barrow to work! He tells other stories about his training with another souther, Jimmy Horn, his training at evening classes in Aberdeen, but how it was such a poorly paid job that he didn't do it after his time in the army and Paras. He mentions his time in the Parachute Regiment, which he did after 3 years in the army, and remembers how he enjoyed it, including a trip to Norway when they landed near Trondheim and camped for a few days. He recalls other jobs he did when he left the Paras, including working for the Hydro Electric Board, being a postie, and worked part-time still as a shoemaker at Shands and also at Crathes. Douglas was then beadle at St Andrews Kirk in Turriff; he and Ian talk about his floral displays, the ministers, looking after the church grounds, and generally looking after the church itself and ensuring it is ready for services. Then he talks about his 'special helper' Rosie the cat, who 'adopted' the church and follows Douglas everywhere while he does his duties. He speaks about his work with the Boys Brigade, which lasted twenty-seven years, and it was through his work there that he met his wife.

Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
30	FP030730	06/03/2007	ALISTER SHEWAN	Peterhead	Fiona-Jane Brown

Alister was born in Turriff, brought up in Cuminstown, on 5th August 1940, he left school at 14 and began work with the Forestry Commission, which he describes in detail. After five years he was signed to play for Aberdeen Football Club as a professional footballer. He did that for 10 years and holds the record for the most consecutive games played, over 320. Tommy Pearson was the manager of AFC, then Eddie Turnbull took over in 1965. He later worked at Ardersier, played football up there, was player-manager at Elgin City in the Highland League in the early 1970s. He speaks about Formartine United FC where he played while working in the Forestry Commission, starting through meeting Tommy Scott, the then trainer with AFC, who recommended he could get a game with Formartine, as his brother John played there. The year Ally left Formartine was when they became a Junior club rather than amateur, and moved grounds to Udney Station. He then talks about football and his childhood interest, and that in Cuminstown folk played sports of every kind. Ally talks more about Formartine United, including games, players, characters involved, the strip, the changing rooms, how they got to matches. He describes his scrapbook which has news-clippings and photos from his footballing days in both Formartine and AFC. He talks again about Cuminstown and its folk, the shops, watching films in the Commercial Hotel, the chippers, dances with Bert Ewen's dance band, concert parties, the village 'Bobby' Constable Main, cars, then goes back to talking about the Forestry, and the Depot at Delgaty, seasonal celebrations. Then Ally talks about playing for Aberdeen FC, playing in the first team from 1963, and being captain. He says how he feels football today is too much of a business, but in his day he played for the team, not money. He talks about a tour to the USA in the 60s to introduce soccer to the Americans, the 1967 Scottish Cup Final where AFC was beaten by Celtic 2-0, and how scary the chants of the crowds was to a wee fairm loon! He then talks about managing Elgin City, playing in Morayshire clubs. His work offshore put paid to his footballing career, and is now a member of the ex-players' committee for AFC. He then talks about Jimmy Calderwood's current work at AFC, players' wages, how he enjoyed the music of the 1960s, how he found it a challenge to get to football games when he worked in the Forestry, because football came first then. Ally has fond memories of the times with Eddie Edmonds at Formartine and other characters, and how Eddie told him not to come back once he went to AFC because he was so proud of one of his players reaching professional level. He ends by saying it was exciting times in his footballing days, and how nice it is to still be recognised by fans at Pittodrie.

Rec No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
31	FP030731	13/03/2007	JOHN BARRON	Turriff	Ian Sandison
<p>John was born at Rosebank, Udney on 14th March, 1930. He talks about going to school at Cultercullen whether it was rain, sleet or snow which was a two mile walk. He went to Ellon secondary school on a bike which was four miles, but if it was too bad, he would cycle to the Logierieve Station and go on the train, but had still a mile to walk to school at the other end. He left school at fifteen and half even though he was encouraged to stay on, but his father had just sacked his only man for allowing a horse to run away and scatter sheaves everywhere, so John had to work on the farm. He then talks about the cattle on the family farm, doing evening classes in farm management from which he got ideas that his traditionalist father didn't agree with. He mentions the traditional methods of crop rotation 'yaval' and 'grannie yaval' and explains what that means. He and Ian look at a photograph of Rosebank and talk about the type of soil, potato gathering, Young Farmers' Club, where they practiced stock-judging, speechmaking, and had a lot of fun. He describes a bad-tempered horse they had called Dick, that would run wild, his first tractor and its implements. John then tells about how people worked together at threshing time, that it was a big day, and talks a bit more about farming. He then speaks about his ancestry and how the Barron family have been in Formartine since the 1700s, as he has an agreement in which his grandfather took over the farm of Blackbog in St Katherines from his great-grandfather in 1888, but the family had been there for the previous two hundred years. He speaks about where his father moved around and also worked on the railways for four years but came back to farming because he was bored. John also then produces a bill from a roup at Rosebank in 1911 when his father took over, and he and Ian discuss the contents, and then an invoice his father had from killing vermin which they end up having a laugh about and finish the interview with Ian thanking John for his stories</p>					



Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
32	FP030732	15/03/2007	CAMPBELL MURDOCH,	Sauchen	Fiona-Jane Brown

Campbell was born on 7 June 1939. His father was a master baker and he says this meant they had no shortage of bakery products during the war. This also meant his father got into trouble for having fresh eggs which was against the rationing rules! His mother died when he was still at school. Campbell recalls holidays with his cousins in Newcastle and how different it was to Aberdeen. He worked as a ship's joiner and cabinetmaker doing his apprenticeship at Hall Russell Shipyard in Aberdeen. He mentions meeting his wife through being friends with her brother years before, and says Hazel was a fiery but bonny lass in her youth. Campbell then speaks about the businesses he was involved with, including car-hire, a garage, metals supply, and his sub-aqua diving work. He then goes on to tell the story of how he bought land in Belhelvie and built his own house from 1973. He talks about loving the country, hillwalking, Balmedie beach, sand-yachts, the family friends in Belhelvie, who were mostly farmers. He talks about his wife's concert parties with Belhelvie WRI, how much fun they had, Hazel's busy life which he thinks contributed to her heart-attack. Campbell then talks about folk from abroad who visited them, in Hazel's time and afterwards when Steve and Alexia's friends came, then goes on to speak about Steve's interest in history from an early age, Peter (Campbell's eldest son) who now lives in Bangladesh, Peter's family, and grandchild Gemma who had cancer. He then talks about weather and climate change, moving to Sauchen in sight of Bennachie,

Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
33	FP030733	25/03/2007	GEORGE & ANNA JAMIESON	Overwoodhill	Judith Sleigh

George begins by saying his grandparents moved from Aberdeen to the croft (19.75 acres) in 1904, buying it from the Haddo estate. His grandfather died soon after his mother was born in 1907. His grandmother continued with the help of one farm worker. George goes onto mention the horses, livestock, hens, selling eggs to the grocer which brought in income, both in his mother's time and his own time. He talks about the change from horse to tractor, and how once the croft became financially unviable George worked as both a slater and chimney sweep in Oldmeldrum, he talks about the present day and how he does his own welding and repairs. He then goes on to talk about how winter weather was so severe he couldn't get his slating work done for weeks, then starts speaking about Barthol Chapel School, the first one which became the village hall, the later prefab one which lasted for a lot longer than the projected 10 years, then the present school where his grandson goes. Anna, born in Fyvie, takes over and starts talking about their family, where her father worked, where she went to school, her experience as a crofter's wife and a crofter's daughter. Both talk about their ancestry, and present family. George talks about the harvesting and pest control, where the name of Overwoodhill comes from, and more on his slater work, lorry driving. Anna talks about the WRI and the Women's Guild. The interview ends with Anna talking about the church, social activities and issues with the costs of community buildings.

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Recorded by</b>
34	FP020734	25/02/2007	VARIOUS - FYVIE CHURCH	Fyvie	Helen Taylor

This is a special service which took place as a farewell to Fyvie Kirk organist and choirmaster, Ben Torrie, who was leaving for pastures new. Minister, Rev Ian Thorburn makes a presentation to Ben at the end of the service. The choir pieces were 'Lord of All Hopefulness' by Malcolm Archer and John Rutter's 'For the Beauty of the Earth.' This accompanies the DVD movie of the service FP020734.1. The choir included: Catherine Young, Irene Finlay, Rosemary Adams, Jean Fisher, Jean Taylor, Jennifer Leys, Gail Thorburn, Lyndsay Mackie, Linda and Shirley Clark, Stuart McDonald and George Bisset, who all gave their permission to be filmed. The hymns were from the Church Hymnal, numbers: 147, 718, 251, 436, 553, 749.

Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
35	FP050735	10/05/2007	STANLEY ROBERTSON	Woodhead, Fyvie	Helen Taylor

Stanley Robertson was born 8th June 1940 in Aberdeen to the Robertson/Stewart family who were traditional Scottish Travellers. His family were all in the armed forces, as was he later in life. He says how his culture taught him things he could not get in conventional schools, including songs, crafts and storytelling. He describes how locals in Aberdeen turned against them after the war and how one woman in their tenement in Powis tried to have them evicted. He recalls this with anger and says that his mother was a Christian and kept her house spotless despite what her nasty neighbour said. Stanley has very fond memories of his times on the Old Road of Lumphanan with the travelling folk, and how his family worked at various jobs during the summer working with scrap, with horses, hawking, rags, how they were wise and made money despite having no conventional education. Helen and Stanley go to Heatherbloom Quarry in Woodhead and Stanley tells the story and sings the ballad of Tifty's Annie, Agnes Smith, who is buried in Fyvie Kirkyard. They go to Fyvie Kirkyard and Stanley tells the story of Donald the farmer and the sunbeam, which is a moral tale about not judging people. He then tells Helen about the supernatural experience he and three members of his church (the Mormon church) had at the mill of Tifty. Stanley talks about things that people made like besoms and pomanders, which they sold around the doors, and how women did fortune-telling. He speaks about how his mother had the gift of second-sight and could tell if he was lying to her as a child. He talks about his wife Johann and how he knew he was going to marry her the day he met her because his mother told him what his future wife would be like. He sings the original song on which the Bonnie Lass of Fyvie is based which is called 'Bonnie Barbara', then sings the ballad 'Glenlogie'. He speaks of how the country folk and aristocrats were very kind to the Travellers, and how he did a folklore piece for Elphinstone Institute about the journey of the travellers from Aberdeen to Fyvie. He then tells the story of the curse of Thomas the Rhymer attached to Fyvie Castle, the story of Liliass Drummond and the locked room in the castle. He explains to Helen how he began to learn to be a storyteller from his great aunt Maggie. He then tells Helen's fortune and she is amazed at his accuracy.

Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
36	FP020736	06/02/2007	LEON SMITH	Woodhead, Fyvie	Helen Taylor

Leon and Helen discuss the formation of the Woodhead & Windyhills Community Trust, which started in response to a threat from Tarmac in 1999 to start digging up the wood which had once been a quarry. Leon thought it was an impossible task, but prompted by Anne Stratton, local resident, they began to protest against it. The local community supported the action from the beginning and Leon was 'volunteered' to be chair of the steering group. Leon talks about the sites which is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest, and how the council had foolishly given permission to quarry there to Tarmac. They talk about raising money, applying to the Land Fund, creating a business plan with the help of North East Enterprise, and Reid Hutchison from Aberdeenshire Council who helped them put together the paper work to create the Trust, how Tarmac tried to keep the mineral rights but finally backed down when they were convinced that the land was going to the community. Leon explains what they did with their purchase, the official opening of the Wood, how the Trust began to be looked on as an official community body. Helen takes over the second part of the interview and talks about the achievements of the Trust to the present day, which shows how when a community is united, things get done! A fascinating insight into Woodhead & Windyhills Community Trust, one of the Oral History Project's main contributors

Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
37	FP040737	13/04/2007	ALEXANDER (AKKI) MANSON	Kilblean, Pitmedden	Val Fowlie

Akki talks about childhood games, taking milk to school which was made into cocoa, and how the Meldrum Sports originated from raising funds to buy cocoa for the schoolchildren, in the Picnic and Cocoa Fund. He talks about a thatched house which he saw being re-roofed with slates which was an innovation for the time. He then goes on to talk about his grandfather who was born at Kilblean Farm, which was built in 1827, then mentions his father who fought in World War 1, who read his own obituary! He lost an arm and had plastic surgery from a famous surgeon of the time. Akki talks sadly about the devastation of war on the youth of the community, the 1918 Flu Epidemic which also killed servicemen at the end of the war. Val moves the conversation to shops, how the farmers used bicycles to go out for their groceries, the work of maids on farms, Kilblean's original kitchen and its clay floor, which was replaced by stone slabs specially made for the house. Akki then speaks about winters, food during his childhood, cycling to Pittmedden garden during the war to pick fruit as a part-time job as a child in order to make jam. The end of the interview is Akki talking about the first traffic lights in Aberdeen which he saw as a child, when his father took the family there on a special trip just to see this novelty.

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
38	FP050738	18/05/2007	BRIAN MARTIN	Heathervale, Tifty, Fyvie	Helen Taylor

Brian was born in 1939 at Tunbridge in Kent, but brought up 'all over the place' because his father was a gamekeeper and was also in the Lovat Scouts. His early days moved from Aldershot to Farnborough North, to Dover and then to Shildaig in Wester Ross. He speaks about his father's background, where he worked, then talks about his own schooldays at various small schools and the interesting walk to and from school at Kinlochranoch. He talks about his sibilings, his father's employers who were landowners and more about school. Brian worked in merchant shipping for twenty years and talks at length about the different shipping lines he worked for, the characters he met at sea, the ships, navigation, work and food. He also got his mate's and master's tickets in Aberdeen by 1967, which was when he got to like Aberdeen, and ended up working for Shell and ended up offshore as an Assistant Offshore Installation Manager. He talks about the early days of the oil industry with Shell, and how he moved to Fyvie and began working onshore. Now he does lots of voluntary work including the Formartine Partnership, the Ythan Volunteers Project which involved surveying the river and wildlife management; he also became a schools inspector; works with the Woodhead & Windyhills community trust - which Helen runs - they discuss how the Windyhills Wood is popular with the locals. He is also a member of the Formartine Environmental Forum, which does various projects to clean up the countryside. They end the interview by discussing fly-tippers and how it needn't happen.

Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
39	FP050739	30/05/2007	LES DONALDSON	Collingwood, Tarves	Fiona-Jane Brown

Les was born in Aberdeen, in 1938, brought up in Holburn, Kaimhill and Garthdee and moved to the countryside in his mid-20s. He talks about his siblings, Broomhill Primary School, Robert Gordon's College, leaving school at 16 to do his apprenticeship as a precision engineer, working in Sharps of Seaforth Road, which made parts for aero-engines. Les then had a change of career and decided to become a teacher in technical subjects, which he talks about, his teacher-training being in the forerunner of Northern College. One highlight of his training was when the Aberdeen Typhoid epidemic meant he couldn't go out to work in Ellon. He then talks about all the schools in Formartine where he worked, gained additional training in special educational needs, then went to work with Grampian Police as a trainer. He then worked as an advocate in Fyvie, then as a Guidance teacher at Aberdeen College of Further Education, then went to university to do a History of Art degree as a mature student at Aberdeen. He talks about his plans for further qualifications, which had to change due to someone else having the same idea, and lead to his interest in the Aberdeen Incorporated Trades, and ended up doing a Masters at Elphinstone Institute. FJ then takes him back to talk about childhood games, cinema, sweeties, making ginger beer. Les then talks about his father's life, the greyhound track at Kaimhill, a tale of criminal activity in the crematorium trade! He talks about his cousin caught the typhoid during the epidemic, then goes on to talk about the changes in teaching, his work with Grampian Police. Les then elaborates on his craft skills, which was really inspired by his father and his own engineering training, meeting his wife, how his daughter is a theatre set designer and artist, coming to live in Tarves, building his own house, getting the land from the laird, his involvement with Tarves Heritage Society, the village itself. The interview ends with FJ and Les going around the Heritage Society in Tarves main square, which includes a museum, Victorian Classroom, and research/visitor room.



<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
40	FP060740	07/06/2007	RUSSELL TAYLOR	Ellon	Fiona-Jane Brown

Russell was born in 1949 in Ruthrieston, Aberdeen. He talks about his childhood in Ruthrieston, his family background, school, shops in Aberdeen, and how he couldn't afford to go to university but began working in the education department for the city council and then latterly became Chief Administrative Officer moving from St Nicholas House to Woodhill House. He then worked for Grampian Police and helped them set up their Human Resources department, then took early retirement. He and his wife now run a franchise business called 'Pet Pals' which is a professional pet-sitting service. He talks about dances, dance halls, cinemas and leisure activities in Aberdeen in the 60s and 70s, shops in Aberdeen again, the first Christmas lights in Union St in 1964, trams, living in Ruthrieston, and how different it is in Ellon. Russell enjoys singing bothy ballads which came about through attending folk clubs and singing at open nights. He then sings the bothy ballads 'Nicky Tams', 'The Muckin o Geordie's Byre', then songs by Ian Middleton, a comic song called 'Auld Davie's Draaers', and a more reflective song called 'A Sign o the Times', which he finishes with.

Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer(s)
41	FP070741	30/07/2007	ALICE CHEYNE	Wells of Newton	Vi Taylor & Margaret Middleton

Alice was born at Wells of Newton, Methlick and talks about her family background on her mother's and father's side, Methlick School, getting distracted while walking across the Bellmuir wood and stayed to watch the foresters so the teacher had to send a senior pupil to come and get them. She remembers her teachers, especially Miss Carle's way of teaching tables and spelling by repetition to the extent that the pupils repeated and spelt everything she said! Alice talks about games, especially skipping, Girl Guides, going to visit her granny in Kemnay during the holidays and having a friend who lived there. She went for music instruction from Maggie Gray in Methlick, and a Polish man who came to the house and also taught the other children while he was there since he lived in Aberdeen and it made it worth his while to do that. She was taught organ by a Mrs Davidson who was a fantastic organist and had been a prisoner of war in Japan. Alice speaks about Sundays, Sunday School picnics, playing the church organ, which she and her brother did when the organists were called up to fight in World War 2. She met her husband at school and he was also musical. She goes on to speak about dances, and describes in detail all the shops, businesses, halls, and winter in Methlick from her childhood. She talks about wartime, how her brother was on fire-watching duty, watching the bombing of the city from their house, how Haddo House was a maternity hospital during the war for the wives of servicemen. She remembers seeing Fraserburgh on fire as a red glow in the sky. Alice was involved in a nutritional experiment set up by Sir John Boyd Orr, the founder of the Rowett Research Institute, to see how children would cope on rations. She speaks about her dog Sparky and how the children spoilt him, and played hide and seek with him. She explains that their farm was called the Wells of Newton because of the well behind their house, then goes on to talk about hobbies and leisure time, ending by remembering a trip to Aberdeen Beach, the trams, the Hall of Mirrors and how funny they looked in the distorted mirrors.

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
42	FP080742	01/08/2007	JIMMY FRENCH	Methlick	Helen Tawse

Jimmy was born 2nd January 1931 at Hillhead of Methlick, which is no longer in existence. He speaks about his parents, his sisters and school days which he says was nothing unusual. Helen T reminds him that he once had Scarlet Fever and Jimmy recalls being in hospital for six weeks at Huntly. He talks about holidays with his aunt in Cults and his grandmother in Tarves, his hobbies, which included fishing (angling), football and badminton which he played at the Beaton Hall in Methlick where he met his wife, his work in his father's shop, his national service in the RAF for two years 1949-51. He worked on the delivery lorry for the shop until his father died when he came back to work in the shop full-time. Jimmy describes what was carried on the lorry, the other shops and businesses in Methlick, dances, Gight Games, which he remembers from a child. He finishes by talking about the tractor manufacturer Maas which is another business he recalls is now in Methlick.

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
43	FP080743	04/08/2007	CHRIS HARLOW	Auchnagatt	Helen Taylor

Chris was born in 1956 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and was brought up there, but had to move around due to his mother suffering from MS. He talks about going to university, in Leicester and Aberystwyth, studying geology, why he chose that subject and coming up to Aberdeen to work in the oil industry at its height. He then talks about his jobs, getting to work offshore, finding a house in Aberdeen, then getting married and moving to Woodhead in 1982. Chris tells Helen about his hobbies, moths, and the study of them, bats, birds and other local wildlife. They then talk about climate change and how it affects wildlife.

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
44	FP080744	11/08/2007	GEORGE ROSS	Collieston	Ellie Ingram

George tells the story about the exciting events of winter 1942 when he was involved in the rescue of sailors from the shipwrecked cruiser, 'Lesrix' with his older friend Richard or Dick Ingram. George was only 12 at the time, which prevented him getting any award, whereas Richard got a medal for his bravery, but poor George was told off by his headteacher for not being in school! George describes how he got involved because his father was ill in bed and the rescue equipment was in their garden. After helping secure the Empire Pilgrim which had run aground, George met an auxiliary coastguard who mentioned he'd seen a distress flare. He runs to get his friend Dick and they find the Lesrix broken up on the rocks near Hackley Bay. The rescue is described with great feeling and it is clear George is still proud of his friend to this day. (George now lives in Dunblane)

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
45	FP080745	11/08/2007	STEVE RITCHIE	Seaview, Collieston	Ellie Ingram

Admiral Steve Ritchie talks to Ellie Ingram about the setting up of the Boules or Pentanque club in Collieston. Steve was in the Navy, and having being elected to be president of the National Hydrographic Office after he left, he lived in Monaco for ten yers and encountered the French game of Boules. When he came to live in Collieston in 1981, the family started playing everywhere, and the folk of Collieston were fascinated. Steve was able to get a part of the old Cransdale Quarry tarred in order to create a Boules' 'piste'. His friend and Collieston resident, John Robertson's wife kept the boules kit at their house. He speaks about the caravan they had to run the Boules Club and who they played against, and the pavilion where they hope to display pictures of former players. Steve is sad he isn't able to play any more and hopes his family will take them up

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
46	FP090746	12/09/2007	DAVID ATHERTON	Newburgh	Fiona-Jane Brown

David was born in 1956, in Northwich, Cheshire. His father was train driver, his mother was a teacher, he had 3 brothers and one sister. David talks about school and the experience of having a mother that was a teacher. He then goes on to talk about his childhood, how his parents ensured the children had a good moral sense, having themselves been brought up with a strong moral and work ethic. He speaks very emotionally about his mother and father, how his mother's mother died of cancer and she had to cope with looking after her parents, his father's parents, whom he adored, the origin of the Atherton name, and his interest in the arts. He talks about art college in Manchester in the midst of the Punk era, part-time jobs as a student, postgraduate study, living and working in London. He then talks about coming to Aberdeen, moving to Newburgh, comparing it with Northwich and working with Peacock Printmakers, working for the City Council in arts, oral history, and then working with the Shire. He talks about how the oral history side in the Cultural Education Officer post, meeting Ted Munro of Footdee who inspired him with his dynamism in his late 80s, how art, landscape and oral history resonate, James McBey, local artist whom David admires, Forvie Sands. He then talks about the start of AROHA - the Aberdeen & Region Oral History Association, cycling around Newburgh area to paint, how he feels about the Oral History Project in Formartine, the links between storytelling and oral history, which is where the interview ends

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
47	FP090747	22/09/2007	VARIOUS - MELDRUM HERITAGE SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING	Oldmeldrum	Fiona-Jane Brown
<p>Fiona-Jane chats with the Daviot and Meldrum Scouts; Maitland Mackie about Scouting; Evelyn Munro about Meldrum Heritage Society, and Stanley Glennie about life in Meldrum</p>					



<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
48	FP100748	01/10/2007	JOHN ROBERTSON	Collieston	John Allan

John was born in Torry, Aberdeen, 9 June 1923, to parents from fishing backgrounds, he had one sister who died at the age of 35 with lung cancer. He talks about his family background, and how he was in Collieston for the first three years of his life before moving back to Aberdeen, where his main schooling was. He talks about the old fishermen in Collieston he remembers, electricity, and how his wife Kay decided she liked the life in Collieston when they were back there in 1950, so they stayed. He goes on to talk about how they met. John goes back to talking about childhood in Collieston, then how he worked firstly in the fish trade in Aberdeen after leaving school at 15, then was in the RAF from 1942. He recalls the bombing raids in Aberdeen, how they weren't as severe as Clydeside, then goes on to talk about his time in the RAF as a navigator. After the war he worked in the wholesale newspaper trade and stationery until he retired. JA then asks him about his poetry which he does as a hobby, work on the Amenities Committee, he performs two of the poems 'The Kids o Collieston' and 'Nae the Same', and ends by saying his childhood in Collieston was his happiest time

Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
49	FP090749	30/09/2007	WILLIAM ADIE	Methlick	Roland Buchan

Mr Buchan starts the interview by asking Mr William Adie about his upbringing. Mr Adie replies that he was born in the parish of Monquhitter but since attending Methlick school at the age of seven has considered himself as a Methlick boy. Mr Buchan asks Mr Adie about the school that he attended and Mr Adie replies that he attended Methlick Higher Grade School with his two younger sisters. He then retells an anecdote about his headmaster and speaks a little about the discipline in the school and the school's Armistice memorial services. He also tells Mr Buchan about his time as a Scout.

Mr Buchan then asks Mr Adie about the outbreak of the Second World War and Mr Adie talks about rationing, the land army and the troops of soldiers who trained in the local area. He also mentioned some of the men who were taken prisoner by the Germans at St Valery and some of those who died during the war. Mr Buchan asks Mr Adie about his own experiences at this time and Mr Adie tells him about the jobs that he did after leaving school: working on a farm and then in a cycle repair shop as well as mentioning air raids and the first time he sighted a German bomber. It was at this time that Mr Adie started training with the Air Training Corp, which was an experience that he found very interesting. When the time came for Mr Adie to sign up he tried to join the Royal Air Force but failed his second medical. He was therefore given ground staff duties such as guard duty. He was based down at Southampton for a while, where he was often under attack from bombers. He was then sent to France and then onto Belgium. One of Mr Adie's most memorable experiences of the war was going deaf for a day while posted in Belgium. He explains that he was walking along the sea wall when he saw two destroyers coming in, one which was badly damaged. Suddenly, anti-aircraft battery shells were falling all around him and the noise caused him great pain and made him go deaf for a day. Mr Buchan then asks Mr Adie about his experiences after the war and Mr Adie explains that he volunteered to return to France where he worked in a diplomatic field. In this situation he met a lot of important war-time people as well as marrying his wife, whom he had met before when he first went to France. Mr Adie was then sent home and demobbed. Mr Buchan asks Mr Adie about his contributions to the community since the war and Mr Adie explains how he is the chairman of the Royal British Legion, Scotland and also how he helps people trace their family routes in Methlick. The interview ended with Mr Buchan thanking Mr Adie for his time and also for his work in the community. (summary by Anna Fancett, transcriber)

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
50	FP060750	26/06/2007	EVAN ARTHUR	Oldmeldrum	Jenny Beber

Evan talks about where he was born, his childhood, apprenticeship as a shoemaker before going on to take over his father's business. He describes the history of the shop through the wartime up to his retirement

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
51	FP060751	29/06/2007	STANLEY GLENNIE	Oldmeldrum	Marguerite Lunney

Stanley talks about his family background, childhood and going to school in Oldmeldrum. He describes the railway, the gasworks and gas lightning in the town, street water pumps, the curling pond, the mart etc. He recalls the coming of evacuee children from Glasgow and other cities affected by the war. He talks about working for his father in his carrier business, doing National Service, and eventually taking over the family business

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
52	FP070752	02/07/2007	WALTER CAMERON	Oldmeldrum	Evelyn Munro

Wattie talks about his family background and growing up in Oldmeldrum, recalling treats such as picnics, the Shepherds' Christmas Party, Hogmanay and the early days of the Meldrum Sports. He went on a trip to Holland with the Scouts in 1947. He talks about working in Meldrum during World War 2 as a telegram boy, then starting his joinery apprenticeship with Sandy Duguid, which was followed by his national service in the Royal Navy. Wattie was an early secretary of the Royal British Legion Social Club in Meldrum, and talks about the success of activities run by the club such as whist drives before television came. He was in the Drama Club, the Pipe Band and the voluntary Fire Service. Wattie also recalls the travelling people who camped at Mossbank.

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer(s)</b>
53	FP070753	04/07/2007	JACK SLEIGH	West Fingask, Tarves	Janice Paterson/ Jenny Beber

Jack was born John Sleigh, but is called Jack by everyone who knows him. Jack talks about his childhood on the farm at Newseat of Tolquhon near Tarves, his schooldays and farming in general. He talks about getting married and also his time as President of the Royal Highland Show.

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
54	FP070754	05/07/2007	NAN GRECZYLO	Oldmeldrum	Evelyn Munro

Nan talks about her family background and growing up in Meldrum, schooldays and picnics, Barra Hill, childhood illness and various treats. She recalls the men leaving the town to go to fight in World War 2. She would play the piano for the pupils as they sang in the school hall until the 'all clear' sounded after an air raid warning. She worked in the Post Office during the war. Troops came to billet in Meldrum, and this was when she met her husband to be, a Polish soldier. Nan was involved in concerts to raise money for the war effort.

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
55	FP070755	24/07/2007	JIM PRESLY	Oldmeldrum	Marguerite Lunney

Jim recalls the Meldrum of his schooldays, his family, parents and grandparents, and recalls the demolition of the Commercial Hotel. He recalls getting meals and being entertained by the soldiers billeted at the Glen Garioch Distillery during the war. He remembers rationing, air raid warnings and plane crashes. Jim was a Scout and went on a trip to Holland in 1947 with the scouts which was organised by Mr Mudie the Scoutmaster. His father had a carrier business also which he took over latterly, and Jim remembers some terrible weather in which they made deliveries sometimes. Jim did his national service in the RAF and has been chairman of the British Legion Social Club



<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer(s)</b>
56	FP070756	27/07/2007	SYDNEY & MARGARET ROSS	Oldmeldrum	Evelyn Munro & Meg Lunney

Sydney and Margaret were interviewed together, Evelyn interviewed Syd, and Meg interviewed Margaret. Syd is a well-known bagpipe player, and talks about his early life before moving to Meldrum. He served his apprenticeship as a plumber and went to his jobs on a bicycle carrying his tools with him. He was in the Territorial Army as well as doing National Service, and talks of his piping activities, doing things for the Royal British Legion, which gained him a lifelong membership and an award for 'Meritorious Service'. Margaret came from Glasgow, and recalls her family life there, before being evacuated to Pitmedden at the age of seven with her sister and brother during the War. She recalls how she settled in with their new 'family' and going to a new school. Margaret talks about the games she played, being a Girl Guide, being in the choir, dancing classes, medicine, dentists and a bombing raid on Bridge of Don and the 'Displaced Persons' camp at Pitmedden. She worked in Tarves bakery before she met Syd and talks about her marriage and moving to Meldrum

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
57	FP080757	15/08/2007	WILLIE LAW	Oldmeldrum	Marguerite Lunney

Willie is the current British Legion President, and was born near St Katherine's, Fyvie. He talks about his family background, childhood and happy schooldays. He talks about working on the family farm, remembering the declaration of World War 2 and being called up to fight. He enjoyed the comradeship of the war years, and recalls how much changed immediately after the war. He speaks of meeting his wife Cathy during that time, his current community work and church eldership

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
58	FP080758	20/08/2007	WILLIAM GREIG	Oldmeldrum	Evelyn Munro

Bill talks about his family background, his childhood at Saphock and Mounie Castle, his time at Daviot School and moving to Oldmeldrum. He worked at the distillery (Glen Garioch) and served his apprenticeship as a joiner in Meldrum. He remembers being called up at nearly the end of the war, his days in the Pipe Band and building his own house

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer(s)</b>
59	FP080759	07/08/2007	RAY WALKER	Oldmeldrum	Jenny Beber & Janice Paterson

Ray was born in Dundee, and moved to Meldrum due to her husband's oil job being transferred from Abu Dhabi in 1982. She recalls finding a house, and later how when they wanted to move to Inverurie, her son would not hear of it and they got another house in the town. Ray taught children with special educational needs. She talks about how being a member of the Women's Rural Institute - which she was elsewhere - and joining the Meldrum WRI helped her to integrate easily into the community, the family also joined the church which helped too. She speaks of how the style of worship has changed in the church and there are services which give people more freedom to do modern music, as well as still having a traditional service. Ray recalls the opening of Meldrum Academy and how as a community school it was to do more than just educate local children. She believes it has been very successful.

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
60	FP090760	11/09/2007	ALEXANDER (AKKI) MANSON	Kilblean, Pitmedden	Evelyn Munro

Alexander, better known as Akki is the current chairman at time of writing of the Meldrum & Bourtie Heritage Society. He has a CBE award (Citizen of the British Empire). He talks about his family background at Kilblean and how generations of the Mansons have farmed there. He describes extracts from his grandfather's diary and how his father, Captain Manson read his own obituary! He tells lots of stories about Meldrum Sports as he was a former chairman of the committee.

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
61	FP090761	27/09/2007	COLIN DONALD	Oldmeldrum	Evelyn Munro

Colin speaks about his life at Parkfield farm and how the Donald family worked it for generations. He speaks about schooldays and sporting achievements (there are several pictures of Colin on the website in races). He was very keen on athletics and golf; he once cycled to London and back in ten days! He was one of the original members of the Meldrum Pipe Band. He also liked singing. Colin describes a 'lifelong' service to Meldrum Parish Church.

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
62	FP100762	23/10/2007	PRIZEWINNERS - DESIGN COMP & LYNNE STRACHAN	Aberdeen College	Fiona-Jane Brown

This was the design competition workshop where the six winners from Meldrum and Turriff Academies came for a two-day workshop at Aberdeen College designing covers for the Project. They were Nick Breed and Kimberley Smith from Meldrum, and Finlay Milne, Eilidh MacInnes, Sam Murdoch and Duncan Henderson from Turriff. Sam and Duncan worked together on the Oldmeldrum design and speak about choosing an abstract colourful pattern. Eilidh and Kimberley came up with a design based on Eilidh's cartoon Turra Coo, while Kimberley put in the bridge. They made their design rear cover full of sunflowers to be cheery. Finlay and Nick produced a photographic cover for Ellon, using Nick's countryside photos and Finlay's drawings of mice and combine harvesters on the rear. Finlay talks proudly about his dad who is a farmer. Both Nick and Duncan being senior pupils, express a desire to go to art school, as did Kimberley, but she was in third year and had plenty time to think about. Everyone talks about how much they enjoy the workshop and a little about their background. Lynne Strachan, the designer, talks about how she is so impressed with the pupils' work and reckons she has some competition.

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer(s)</b>
63	FP019793	01/05/1997	WILLIE LAW	Meldrum School	Meldrum School Pupils

Willie is asked questions about his wartime memories by the pupils on subjects like rationing, air raids, war service, when the war broke out, when he was in France, his training and entry to the armed forces. He tells the pupils about 'the Miracle of Dunkirk' when the little ships came to rescue the soldiers on the beach. They ask about camp facilities, and Willie tells them about being in tents, making a cookhouse in the open and making the best of it. The children speak a little about Willie's background and things they had in the classroom relating to wartime. Willie says that war is an awful thing. Included on the transcript are notes from Wikipedia online database about Montgomery and Alexander, the generals that Willie speaks about.



Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
64	FP100764	29/10/2007	ROBERT LOVIE	Fyvie Castle	Helen Taylor

Robert begins by talks about his work with the National Trust. He was born in Aberdeen, brought up on a farm near New Aberdour, 10 April 1969, has one sister, his father was a farmer, his grandfathers were fishermen from Whitehills. He talks about how he didn't want to be a farmer, and neither did his father, schooldays, leaving school to work in various agricultural companies in sales and management, working on the farm while his father was ill, which convinced him totally he wasn't meant to be a farmer, his interest in entertainment which came from his family's musical skills, and listening to the greats of bothy ballad singing on gramophone and tape, entering talent contests, which started TV and radio performances. This also started his interest in Doric, recording songs, which gave him a totally different hobby to his day job, and prompted him to go for a job that incorporated both entertainment and work. He went for an interview at Haddo House and began work there as Business Manager for the Arts Trust. He then talks about how he started with the National Trust as Regional PR manager in the 1990s, doing charity work, Entertainment Manager on the NTS cruises, fund raising in the USA, and how life is never dull. Helen then asks him about his interest in Scots poetry, public speaking, and then Robert explains about the foundation with his mother of the Buchan Heritage Society, his music recording career which began with playing in the Garioch Blend, in 1983, when Charlie Esson who owned Donside Records suggested he should record some albums, promotion through Ross Records in the present day. Robert recites 'Sic a Wife As Willie Hid' and 'The Lass that made the Bed Tae Me' by Robert Burns, 'Fit Like Folk', by JC Milne, 'Bennygoak' by Flora Garry, at which gets Helen very emotional! The interview ends with Robert talking about his own scribbling, but being too busy.

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Recorded by</b>
65	FP060765	13/06/2007	VARIOUS - THE BROWNHILL ROUP, GEORGE GRAY'S	Methlick	Helen Taylor & Ian Sandison

The roup is a farm auction and the recording covers the various things that were sold and George Gray talking in his very fast, often unintelligible auctioneer-speak. He makes witty comments to the crowd and makes sales pitches for things like the various tins of paint 'ye can pint tartan wi'it!', and teases people for not paying attention. Local personality Charlie Allan and his son in law bid against each other for a milk churn which has their farm name on it, Neil wins. The recording gives a real flavour of what happens at a farm auction and the strange and wonderful things that are sold. The transcript attempts to capture the auctioneer-speak as accurately as is possible

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
66	FP100766	27/10/2007	BARBARA MACKAY	Methlick	Florence Cadger

Barbara Ann was born at Mains of Waterton, 4 April 1922. Her father was a cottar, William Robertson of Slains, her mother was Jeannie Cantlay of Clochcan near Auchnagatt, and she was a maid. They married in 1903. Barbara was the youngest of 10 children. She talks about moving the the Feu, Slains, where her father worked, household chores, bedding, seasons, Sunday, her playground games, and then talks about training to be a dressmaker from 16 years old in Aberdeen, but helped on the croft before she reached that age, Barbara's apprenticeship ended at the beginning of World War 2, and was called up to the ATS down to Dalkeith, which she talks about being a huge change to home, then she learned to drive in the forces. She talks about returning to dressmaking, then getting married, the differences between her own childhood and today. Barbara ends by saying it was nicer to be the youngest as all her siblings had grown up before her and her parents had more time and money to spend on her.

Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
67	FP110767	07/11/2007	JIMMY MACKIE	Fernbank, Methlick	Helen Tawse

Jimmy was born in Fernbank, Methlick 1939. His mother was Helen Bruce French of Hillbrae, Methlick, his father was Hector Mackie of Logierieve. He has one sister. His mother's folk had a shop at Fernbank. Jimmy goes on to talk about school, going on holiday to Collieston, playground games, hobbies, his apprenticeship as a joiner, which started by going to trade school in 1954, then working with Willie Webster, a local joiner. He talks about Willie who was a character, his leisure time, which included hillwalking, playing badminton, dances, frequenting the local public house in Methlick, Ellon Agricultural Show, New Deer Show, Gight Games (when he was still a boy). Helen then asks him about changes in Methlick from his childhood, the great storm of the 1950s, his National Service which didn't come to pass as he failed his medical! He then speaks about the boy scouts and cubs, starting from being a Cub in 1947, joining the Scouts in 1950, and latterly becoming a Scoutmaster, going to Balmoral to the Queen's Garden Party. Jimmy speaks about the village hall, the keeper's garden and house, and Helen asks about the Home Guard, which his father was a member of, where the interview concludes with Jimmy mentioning their marches to the Bellmuir Forest as part of their training and how rumour has it that a couple of men would nip into French's shop for some refreshment on the way!

Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Recorded by
68	FP110768	17/11/2007	VARIOUS - CONCERT PARTY	Ellon Kirk Centre	Sara Reith

The concert party was in aid of Ellon Academy's expedition to Ecuador as part of the World Challenge scheme. Sandy Stronach was the compere for the evening; Dick Trickey was the sound engineer as well as taking part in the show; The following acts were involved: Ythan Fiddlers; Marlene Ross School of Dance; Ellon Academy ceilidh band; Shona Donaldson, singer from Huntly (wife of Paul Anderson); Maggie & Dick Trickey with songs; Russell Taylor, bothy ballads; Graham White songs and tunes, also accompanied by Irene Watt, who later performed solo on the clarsach; Sara Reith on whistle; Pauline Cordiner singing 'Learnin Tae Be A Fairy' which was a song especially dedicated to the late Hazel Murdoch, who was famous for her concert party in Belhelvie, and who wrote the song; Fiona-Jane Brown sang June Imray's song 'The Café Quine's Lament';

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
69	FP110769	15/11/2007	ANNIE STEPHEN	Turriff	Jill Delday

Annie was born at Dykeside Smithy, Auchterless, on 31 December 1919. Her father, Andrew MacConnachie was a blacksmith. Annie talks about her schooldays, leaving school and training to be a hairdresser in Aberdeen. She was then called up during the Second World War and trained as an auxiliary nurse. Annie tells Jill about her time working at Fyvie Castle and the Burn House, Edzell which were converted to convalescent hospitals during the war, her colleagues, the matron, then moving to work at Stracathro hospital which happened over a period of four years. She then went back to hairdressing. She talks about working, getting married, where she lived with her husband, life in the countryside, house and farm work, social occasions. She then goes on to talk about what her siblings did, the changes in the standards of living, Sunday School and church. Annie ends the interview by saying she had a happy home and gives some advice to young people

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
70	FP110770	09/11/2007	CAROLE EDDIE	Fyvie	Helen Taylor

Carole was born in Fyvie Hospital 15 May 1958, which she says is a privilege since the hospital closed in the 1960s. She begins by talking about school, her mother being a teacher, her own class teachers, going to Inverurie Academy, going into banking after being inspired by their recruitment campaign, the village of Fyvie as she was growing up, including a detailed description of all the shops, the doctor's, sweeties, Fyvie Castle when it was a private home and then goes on to talk about the Fyvie Heritage Centre which was set up in the primary school. Carole then talks about the church, Sunday School, the Millennium monument, Fyvie Folk Club of which Carole is a stalwart, the Turriff Young Farmers Club, Fyvie Post Office where Carole currently works, and then she recites some of her favourite poetry including Peter Buchan's 'The Dunderheid', 'The Ither Side of the Pulpit' by Jimmy Wright, speaks about her love of Doric, and the interview ends by Helen's salutary tale of the young wives at church only wanting to join the choir if they got hymns to sing they liked, and the minister telling them they weren't in church to enjoy themselves!

Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer(s)
71	FP110771	22/11/2007	DAVID BROWN	Ellon Area Office	Barry McCabe & Fiona-Jane Brown

David Brown is the Area Ranger for Formartine, and was born in Kendal in Yorkshire. He talks to Barry from Ellon Academy about his early life, schooldays, being at a boarding school and the old-fashioned teachers; his work, moving up to Aberdeenshire with his wife and trying hard to get a job. With Fiona-Jane, David talks about his storytelling activities, how he became interested in Norse and Celtic mythology which encouraged him to learn the Norse and Welsh tales, how he had to finally get a Welsh person to read out the names of the characters in the epic Mabinogion stories so he could pronounce them and also about how he feels about adult and child audiences. They then talk about the story of Wayland the Smith, which David says has historical truth in some versions about sword making. He then goes on to tell the legendary tale of the Evil Priest of Forvie in which the people think they are cursed by a priest who seems anything but holy. David explains that he got the story from a poem he was shown at Forvie nature reserve and has no idea where it came from. FJ suggests it has relations to smuggling and they talk about smuggling and local characters involved.



<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
72	FP100772	07/10/2007	IRENE ROSS	Collieston	John Allan

Irene was born 25 October 1929 in Hightown, Collieston. Her father was George Ross and her mother, Margaret Main. She begins by talking about how her parents met through her dad driving buses with his cousin Ally Cruickshank. Her mother was a widow when they met. Irene then talks about her father's bus service, the things they transported and the characters who travelled on the buses. She then talks about how her father tried to get a house in Collieston after he was married, and the one he bought at Hightown, then moving to Newburgh, her schooldays in Collieston and Newburgh, then going to the Aberdeen School of Domestic Science in King St., to do a pre-nursing course before she started her nursing training at the age of 18 at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. She talks about her training, working in Glasgow, in maternity, and how she sometimes got to cases on a motorbike.

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
73	FP110773	28/11/2007	ETHEL STANGER	Haddo, Methlick	Vi Taylor

Ethel was born at Fyvie (does not give the year), and she left school with the desire to do housework! The interview covers Ethel's memories as housekeeper at Haddo House. She started after her daughter was five, when her neighbour who was the cook at Haddo asked if she would like to come and work there during the time of the Opera staying, then was asked by Lady June Gordon if she would like to join the staff permanently. Ethel remembers the rooms that used to be cleaned, the beds that had to be made up, the Morning Room being her favourite, nobility that she met in the course of her work, and how she returned as a tour guide, which her husband is also. She talks about visitors to Haddo, the changes in domestic technology like hoovers and the like. Ethel remembers how the food had to come from the opposite side of the house to the dining room, and how hotplates were used, the Haddo Chorale, concerts, plays, the junior choir, and the ghost of Archie Gordon who made his presence felt one night when Ethel was locking up.

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
74	FP110774	26/11/2007	CHARLES ESSON	The Feu, Slains	John Allan

Charles was born in Ellon 1954, had two older siblings, a brother and sister. He begins by talking about the Slains estate and how his ancestors were tenants there for about three hundred years, but had only been at the Feu since 1931 when his grandfather became the tenant farmer. He talks about odd items found in the farmhouse when they moved in which were left by the previous owner, then goes on to talk about his maternal grandfather, and a man called Johnny Gow who worked on the Feu in the 1860s, who was married to a descendant of famous local smuggler, Philip Kennedy. Charles talks about folk paid rent in kind in the 19th century, about other local famers and their work, peat-cutting on Lundie Moss, cows getting lost on the moss, changes in farming from his father's time in the 1920s, his own farming work, going to agricultral college. Charles then begins telling John about his interest in war-time history, and his recording of the bombing around the Formartine area. He tells some amazing stories about some of the bomb-drops and how the locals experienced it, including a bull who was shot by a ricocheting piece of shrapnel. He ends by saying that the loch near Collieston must have life in it again as he has seen a good few cormorants perched there.

Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
75	FP120775	06/12/2007	MAITLAND MACKIE	Rothienorman	Fiona-Jane Brown

Maitland was born on 21 September 1937, at Westertown, Rothienorman, the third to be called Maitland, as his father and grandfather were also. He is the second of six children and talks about his siblings. He begins the interview by talking about his childhood and how he felt it was idyllic like the Charles Murray poem 'It Wasna His Wyte'. He talks about going to Daviot School, and later the Grammar School in Aberdeen, the teachers and pupils, playground games and what he learned. He then goes on to speak about Christmas, New Year and his father's innovative ways of presenting the arrival of 'Santa Claus', and then talks about his ancestry in Westertown going back to 1690, the farming business of the Mackies, beginning in milk retail. He then talks about being at university, how the oil industry affected the business of farming, changes in farm technology, how as a child he enjoyed working along with the men on the farm, an recalls Jimmy Philip, one of the cattlemen. He speaks about how his neighbours are traditionalists, then about the milking systems at Westertown, including the robotic milking. CD2 starts when Maitland is talking about his family's involvement in the film 'A North East Corner', which was a piece of tourist advertising commissioned by the BBC, then community activities, including dances, curling, Farmer's Clubs, tug-o-war, his experiences in Scouting. Maitland then talks about meeting his wife and when they got married in Norway. He talks about hobbies, Doric, recites Charles Murray's 'Gin I wis God', his love of poetry being passed onto his grandchildren, his war-time experiences as a child, his uncle George Mackie who was a hero of the RAF. He then talks about the present day, how he is pleased all his children are involved in Mackies the business, how they got into ice-cream, and the work involved, odd sources of publicity, including Ian Rankin the crime writer featuring Mackies ice-cream in one of his novels, holidays, the horror as a child of seeing his new bike was run over by a lorry driver outside the school, driving cars from an early age on the farm, and ends by saying how he hopes that the Mackie brand name will increase to cover quality food as well as just ice-cream

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
76	FP110776	30/11/2007	COLIN KEENAN	Oldmeldrum	Fred Milne

Colin has lived in Meldrum since 1979. He was a senior lecturer at the Robert Gordon University. He talks about how his love of Scottish folk and traditional music brought him to Aberdeenshire. He has done research into the great ballads collected by Francis J Child many of which are sung in the North East. He knew Hamish Henderson, the founder of the School of Scottish Studies and did academic work there himself. Colin has also always loved football and was involved in coaching Formartine United JFC, he is now their sports reporter and website administrator. There is a great discussion about ballads, bothy ballads, Doric, cornkisters and the folk music tradition of the north east of Scotland

Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Recorded by
77	FP120777	12/12/2007	FORMARTINE VOLUNTEERS' XMAS PARTY	The Redgarth Inn, Oldmeldrum	Fiona-Jane Brown

Begins with Carol Eddie reciting Doric poetry, 'Christmas Nae for Me' about a turkey discovering his fate, 'Santa Claus Dis Exist' based on the form of the poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'; as is 'It Was the Month After Christmas'; Fiona-Jane Brown sings 'The Café Quine's Lament and 'The Hieland Man', two comic songs. Ian Sandison tells some stories about Sandy Wilson the horse-dealer; FJ tells the joke about the cow and the car; All the volunteers including Sonia Stephen, former development officer and David Atherton, Aberdeenshire Arts Education officer have their say about the project; Ian carries on with part of a poem about Jess Hedderwick who was extremely houseproud, in response to Janice Paterson's comment about how she loves to hear Doric, even though she is English and has had to learn it. Ian speaks about some of the Turriff interviewees; he also talks about his father-in-law Jimmy Chapman, who Frances and Helen from Methlick knew. Jimmy was a dowser or water-diviner. Ends by Judith Sleigh thanking FJ for her hard work and organising the meal

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
78	FP120778	10/12/2007	BERT SLESSOR	Oldmeldrum	Jim Presly

Bert was one of the original players of Formartine United team which was started by mill-wright, Eddie Edmonds of Pitmedden. He talks about his childhood and schooldays at Tipperty, Udney Green and Foveran before talking about his working life on farms, including 38 years at Cairdseat. Bert remembers the PoW camp at Pitmedden and what the prisoners of war were made to do in terms of working locally. He talks about the football club, and how Eddie enticed people to sign for the team by offering them half-a-dozen brown eggs, and how he didn't get any! He continued his association with the club after giving up playing.

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
79	FP120779	06/12/2007	MAJOR JOHN PATON	Oldmeldrum	Evelyn Munro

John Paton has lived near Meldrum since 1975; he talks about his childhood in the Borders and tells of the moment he realised he wanted to be a soldier. He lied about his age and enlisted at 16 and a half at the beginning of World War 2. He had a distinguished army career, becoming an RSM at aged 26. While he served in Hong Kong, John did voluntary work with disabled children and found it very emotional. He talks of his time after the army working at Fyvie Castle, where he voluntarily repaired, renovated and displayed the armoury. He has been a guide at the castle for a long time and has even had to show the Queen Mother around it. He describes Thomas the Rhymer's curse on the castle, and the supernatural happenings reported and otherwise including the Green Lady, who was the ghost of Lilius Drummond.



<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer(s)</b>
80	FP120780	07/12/2007	JIM KIRKPATRICK	Oldmeldrum	Doug Smith & Evelyn Munro

Jim is an Orcadian and only moved to Aberdeenshire at the age of 14 in 1947 when his parents bought the farm of Ardfork near Meldrum. He talks about his childhood in Orkney and wartime experiences, and remembers the move and how he felt about leaving. He speaks of his love of farming, wildlife and history, and very much enjoys the Doric, although has not lost his native Orcadian tongue.

<b>Record No.</b>	<b>Cat. No.</b>	<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Interviewer</b>
81	FP110781	27/11/2007	BILL CHALMERS	Oldmeldrum	Doug Smith

Bill was born in 1918 and talks about his working life on farms. He tells Doug about his secret of long life and fitness. He talks about feein' markets and how some farm living quarters varied in quality during the 1930s and 1940s. He loved working with horses. Bill caught typhoid and described how he survived. He latterly bought his own croft and he and his wife Tibbie worked very hard there

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82	FP110782	28/11/2007	IAN FYFE	Oldmeldrum	Evelyn Munro

Ian talks about his childhood at Craigie Farmhouse, Tarves, where his father was grieve. His mother worked from 'dawn til dusk' bringing up their large family, milking the cows - they had four - feeding the workers who lived on the farm, and all her other jobs. He moved to a place called 'Blankets' where he worked up to his National Service. After that he worked as a distiller in Glen Garioch distillery, Meldrum for thirty-three years.

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83	FP120783	11/12/2007	MICHAEL ROBERTSON	Oldmeldrum	Evelyn Munro

Michael used to own Morris's Hotel in Meldrum, and was himself the grandson of Dr Le Roux. There is now a street named 'Le Roux Avenue' and Michael tells the story of the lady after whom it was named. He speaks about his grandfather, Tom Robertson of Oakhill who founded the Meldrum Pipe Band. He remembers his schooldays in Meldrum, and working on the farm. His father took a sudden decision to buy the Morris's Hotel and Michael's own career abruptly changed from farmer to hotelier. He tells of the history of the hotel, its associations with Willie Kemp, bothy ballads and folk music including 'Morris' Minstrels'

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84	FP110784	29/11/2007	DENNIS KESSACK	Oldmeldrum	Fred Milne

Dennis talks about going to school in Rothienorman before taking the bus to Fyvie to go to secondary level. His footballing hobby brought him into Meldrum and latterly worked at the distillery. He describes the other jobs that he did before that, and then discusses in detail the whisky-making process at Glen Garioch where he spent most of his working life

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85	FP110785	08/11/2007	ALEXANDER NICOL (aka Nicky) LITTLEJOHN,	Oldmeldrum	Fred Milne/ Jim Presly
<p>Nicky is from Inverurie. He speaks about his early life, and working as a train driver on 'Meldrum Meg', which is what the trains on the branch line from Meldrum to Inverurie were called. He describes the journey and the goods he transported. The branch line was cut in 1966 as a result of the Beeching Report, and Nicky drove the last train out of Meldrum on the last day of December 1966.</p>					

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86	FP110786	22/11/2007	TONY ROBERTSON	Oldmeldrum	Fred Milne/ Jim Presly

Tony is in his eighties and with Fred and Jim, he goes on a trip down memory lane around Oldmeldrum of seventy years ago, recalling shops, industry, the local 'characters' and the events of his childhood

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87	FP110787	20/11/2007	FRED MILNE	Oldmeldrum	Jim Presly

Fred was born at Ythanbank on a croft. He talks about the croft, his childhood there, and his schooldays at Auchedly. He talks about his first job as an assistant gardener at Schivas House, serving his apprenticeship as a painter and then deciding to become a psychiatric nurse. He began working in the kitchen at Kingseat Hospital in the 1950s, and ended up Senior Nursing Officer for Kingseat, Daviot, Maud and Glen o'Dee psychiatric/ geriatric hospitals in Formartine



Record No.	Cat. No.	Date of interview	Interviewee	Location	Interviewer
88	FP010888	07/01/2008	CHARLIE ALLAN	Methlick	Fiona-Jane Brown

Charlie was born in Stirling in a taxi on the way to the hospital! His parents lived in Blairlogie, Stirlingshire. His father mother both had to do war service as a teacher and soldier respectively so at the age of four, Charlie went to live with his maternal grandparents, Maitland and Mary Mackie, at North Ythsie of Tarves. He and Maitland Mackie are first cousins, sharing the same grandparents. Charlie describes it as 'the life of Reilly', and talks about his best friends the Crombies, who were 2 of 13 children, and also having the run of the farmhouse to himself. He talks about when the Mackies came into farming in the area, from his great-grandfather, John Mackie, and also about his father's folk, the Allans of Bodachra, Scotstown, Aberdeen, his father was also brought up by his grandparents, as his parents went to America when he was born, as he says was recalled in the book 'A Farmer's Boy'. Charlie's own parents met at Aberdeen University, and moved to Aberdeenshire through his grandfather giving his mother a farm to live on, at Little Ardo of Methlick from 1945. He then talks about school and how his mother believed in 'progressive schools', resulting in him going all over Scotland for his education. He then talks about work, teaching in Higher Education, then coming back to farm at Little Ardo after his father retired. Charlie goes on to talk about the Yules/Yulls, his grandmother's folk, how the Allans all left farming, and how the Mackies all stayed in the business, what it was like running the farm himself, buildings on the farm, cattle, dairy work, exporting pedigree cattle (Charolais), which covered 13 years of farming til his son-in-law Neil took over at Little Ardo. He also talks about his folk-singing, recording bothy ballads commercially with Mark Ellington at Towie Barclay, writing a few songs including 'The Blue-Grey Coo'. He talks about selling off the pedigree cattle when they become unviable, working for the BBC as a farming correspondent, moving to Kenya when his wife got a job there for two years, which he enjoyed, but wasn't too fond of ex-pat women's attitude to the local services in Africa. He restarted work on the farm again farming cereals and grain, then handing the farm onto Neil who was enthusiastic about farming, despite not coming from the background. Charlie talks again about his songs including 'Lonely in the Bothy' which he was joint-author of, explains what a Blue-Grey Coo is, singing competitions, writing the 'Farmer's Diary' for the Herald newspaper. Charlie ends with a childhood memory of his good friend 'Dibber' who had great problems with swimming until Charlie came to his rescue, and recalling the freedoms of youth.

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89	FP120789	10/12/2007	MARY LORIMER	Turriff	Pat McKay & Ian Sandison

Mary was born in Turriff in 1920, and was brought up in Mair's Buidlings till she was 12, then moved to Hillcrest. She begins by talking about school, leaving at 13, working at the Fife Arms, which was very unpopular with her mother who said that working in hotels gave a girl a bad name! She was trained as a cook and worked very hard, then worked at the local dentist's as a cleaner. She then talks about the different places the family lived, old Turriff, in the Howe, the town hall, which was latterly a cinema. Ian asks about the origin of the name 'The Howe o' Hell', where there was lodging house that had some very poorly-off residents. Mary recalls more about old Turriff, the markets, shops and businesses, her bad experience in Oldmeldrum as a cook where the staff weren't fed properly, which lead to an employment tribunal! After this she started going out with her husband to be, whom she married at age 18, in 1937. She begins to talk about how there were many PoWs in Turriff during the War, as well as British forces billeted in the town, how she got her first dog which she rescued from being cruelly treated by soldiers. Mary then talks about a mean farmer she worked for tattie picking, and how she lead a mass-walkout to teach him a lesson, ending up in him having to get schoolchildren to work for him instead. She goes on to talk about her experiences at Hutcheon's in the Egg Depot, then working in the office, then the Crisp Factory, some stories about badly-behaved staff, how Mr Hutcheon was a fair boss but didn't put up with any nonsense. Pat then asks about Earl Lodging, which Mary tells her about, then goes on to talk about the railway when the family nearly had an accident walking on the line when an unexpected train arrived. She ends the interview by talking about her father, who was first a baker, then became a builder.

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90	FP120791	19/12/2007	YVONNE PHILLIPS	Barthol Chapel	Jennie Chalmers

Yvonne was born in Fyvie, brought up on a farm outside Oldmeldrum. She begins by talking about school at Craigdam, helping on the farm, latterly being at school in Tarves, then Inverurie Academy, to allow her to go to college in Aberdeen to train to be a cook from the age of 16. Her experiences on placement in hotels put her off cooking there, which prompted her to take a job as a catering teacher at Commercial College in Holburn St which she left at 25 to get married. She talks about the differences between Aberdeen and home, how the oil industry affected the farming industry, the sizes of farms, the agricultural seasons, then goes on to talk about Doric, and the book 'Doric Alive and Kicking', her father's farm diary which was a fine example of the written dialect, how when she was young she raised a calf every year which brought her a lot of money for a youngster. Yvonne then talks about the transmission of skills from her grandmother, baking, the changes in schools from the village to the academy, and ends the interview talking about her hopes for the future, which includes passing on a positive understanding of the past to the next generation.

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91	FP120794	05/12/2007	ISA SHEWAN	Collieston	John Allan

Isa was born 30 Sept 1926 at East Brownhill, Aberdeenshire. Her father was an Orcadian from Hareness, her mother was from St Andrews in Fife, and she has two brothers and two sisters. Isa begins by talking about her schooldays, leaving at 14 to come home and work on the farm, now North Ellis Hill, then later worked as a maid at the Feu, another local farm. She recalls the work done, including looking after the chaumer where the male farm workers slept, milking the Esson's cow, until her sister left home so she had to go back to help at the family farm until she married in 1948. She then goes on to talk about where they lived and where her husband worked. She also ended up back at the Feu looking after Mrs Esson (the grandmother of Charles Esson, fellow Collieston interviewee), then working as school cleaner. Isa then talks about changes brought about by the coming of the oil industry which improved farm workers' pay, She talks about her parents after John asks when they moved from Orkney, then about wartime bombing, soldiers who were stationed nearby and came to the local dances, an Italian PoW who worked at the Feu during the war, rationing and how they coped, social events, the coming of television, cycling as opposed to driving, how transport has changed with buses, and Isa ends by saying some things have not changed for the better!

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92	FP010893	07/01/2008	CHARLIE MURRAY	Slains	John Allan

Charlie was born in Collieston in July 1938, his father was from Newburgh and his mother from Torry in Aberdeen. He talks about school, how he was more interested in trapping and fishing with his father, and talks about the fishing, rabbiting, and how his father was killed in a car accident. He mentions how he and his father would collect seagulls' eggs on the rocks and how folk from Aberdeen that weren't familiar with the rocks would fall over the cliffs and be killed, he continues describing the demand for eggs and how sometimes he would catch ducks to eat. He then talks about starting work at the age of 15 on a farm at Kirkton of Slains, his National Service in the Royal Marines, getting married and then moving to Australia. Charlie's time in Australia is punctuated by working various jobs in the bush, in hot conditions, and enjoying himself for thirty years. He then talks about Collieston, how he used to cycle as few folk had cars, the diet and food as a child, how myxomatosis killed off most of the rabbit population locally. He then goes back to talking about childhood, Christmas, his father's friends, his mother and her folk. Charlie ends talking about being out fishing with his father and how it was sometimes very dangerous in poor weather to get the boat back inshore.

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93	FP120790	16/12/2007	CHARLIE REID	Methlick	Roland Buchan

Charles was born at Treeroot, Millbrex in 1934, his mother was a Chapman, and his father was a blacksmith, also Charles Reid. He talks about schooldays to begin with, getting off to help his father at the smiddy at the end of his school time, Sunday School, and beginning his apprenticeship at his father's, which also involved going down to Edinburgh to do engineering classes at the Ramsay Technical College, which he talks about. Roland then asks him about other blacksmiths in the area, and how there are none left in the present day. Charles explains the types of work a blacksmith could do, how local people all had a good idea how to fix things within the community, and talks about when their family started with the smiddy when it was rebuilt in 1897, their sources of fuel, how his grandfather also owned steam engines and threshing mills which brought in more business income. He also speaks about trapping rabbits personally as a sideline to help pay the bills, the working day at the smiddy, social events, the increase in costs of shoeing horses, how his father's clients wouldn't trust him as the young lad to shoe their horses, tractors, how the blacksmith's engineering abilities helped the development of farm technology. Then he talks about the changes in sizes of farms, how they have Polish men working for them now, how his work as a blacksmith is rapidly moving away from agricultural work, into buildings and engineering. The interview ends with Roland thanking Charles and his family for the wonderful job they have done as blacksmiths in keeping NE farmers in business.

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94	FP120792	17/12/2007	ROBERT TAYLOR	Methlick	Florence Cadger

Robbie was born on Little Ardo croft, Methlick in 1926, he was one of thirteen children. He talks about going to Cairnorrie School, evacuees coming from Glasgow to the village, leaving school and starting work almost immediately as a 'fairm loun' for Charlie Morrison, poor winters, playground activities, helping out on the croft as a child, harvest time, feeding the cattle, milling the meal. He goes on to talk about family again, and how two cousins lived with them too, how his father constructed beds for the children in the loft, war-time, blackout, parties in the bothy/ chaumer, local entertainments, including the cinema in Methlick Hall, dances. Robbie then began an apprenticeship in the building trade, and talks about the work that he did. Robbie's wife Jean then contributes some comments about how they met, how they started in a house without electricity or water, - the water was supplied by a well. He recalls having to help the postmen having been made redundant from the builders in a terrible winter, Jean Taylor mentions about having to walk on top of the dykes as the snow was so high, and Robbie speaks about having to walk to collect supplies in the winter, how the baker used a sledge drawn by horses to take supplies around, and the school was buried in snow in the 1940s, but they still went! He then talks about how his father rented the croft from the Haddo Estate, which he ended up buying because of a profligate laird and lady at Haddo who had to sell off land to pay their debts. Robbie talks again about being a foreman mason with Willie Davidson in Tarves for 18 years, until the company was dissolved. Robbie began working with his son, Colin, before handing it on completely to him and retiring. He ends by talking about the huge differences in farm technology these days to his youth.

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95	FP030895	04/03/2008	BETTY DUGUID & ELSIE IRONSIDE	Ellon Library Heritage Room	Fiona-Jane Brown

Betty and Elsie begin with a pre-planned script about the games they used to play, and songs they used to sing. They talk about Sunday School picnics, Betty recalling one where the minister fell right into some cow dung. Then I talk to them about how Ellon has changed, where they met, what their fathers did, and the difference in the shops, or lack of them. Betty's father was a grocer and his shop was where Costcutters is today on Station Road. Elsie worked in the bakery in Ellon, but latterly worked in Aberdeen. She recalls some terrible winters where people were cut off, cars were buired in the snow at Menie, Belhelvie for about two months, and only the bus could get through. She recalls a time when workers clearing the snow at Toll of Birness on the road to Peterhead refused to do any more after they cleared it for the ninth time, but could not stop the snow drifts. Both recall how speaking Doric in class was not allowed, and you spoke to teachers in English out of respect. (On same CD as Pam & May)



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96	FP030896	18/03/2008	JIM MATHERS	Broadmuir, Slains, Collieston	John Allan

Jim was born at Cromleybank, Hatton, in August 1924. Jim talks about school, his background, working on his father's farm, his siblings, the type of farming done, using an old car as a tractor, then getting a Fordson in 1937, which cost £130. Then John asks him about the harvest which Jim describes in detail. He then talks about the worst job on the farm, which was emptying the midden, ploughing with the horse, the Broadmuir Meal an' Ale, which was a big party after the harvest, the dancing school held at the farm. Jim mentions that though he was not called up being a reserve occupation, he had to go for an interview to explain this, Jim explains that sea convoys were visible crossing the North Sea from Collieston during the war, local residents being fired on by German planes, German and Italian PoWs working on the farm, who also lived with them. Jim then talks about changes in agriculture, employment and land use. Jim talks about his first real holiday camping with his brother Bill and others up into the Highlands then back down to Edinburgh which he thought was a huge distance from home, then talks about being on planes on holiday, to Canada, America and Norway. He mentions how one of his daughter lives in the USA, then talks about the impact of the oil industry, his bowling, the youth club, badminton and MC'ing dances in Collieston Hall - Jim ends by saying he's 'done his bit, but it was a long time ago!'