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Eoin Dunne

Frances Fuller

5 Anchor House, Old Street

Purpose of the interview is part of the One History EC1 in the making Oral Histories Interviews.

E: If you don't mind me asking where and when were you born?

F: I was born on 20th December 1933 at St Mary's Islington, that's no longer there that was a hospital.

E: Could you tell me about your childhood.

F: My Mother and Father were both on the stage and I had a happy childhood until the War started. Then I was evacuated with my Sister, I was 5 and she was 6. Those years were rather traumatic because when you go to certain people they still had the old values of clonking you ever so often and apart from that, I did enjoy not the clonking but being in Hertfordshire that was in Croxley Green, near Rickmansworth.

E: Can you just tell me a little bit about your parents, where were your parents from?

F: Well, my Father was from Chicago and he was Afro-American, my Mother was born in Yorkshire and she was half Portuguese, coloured Portuguese basically.

E: So you were born in Islington do you know why they came to Islington?

F: Well they were both on the stage so they came to London and this is why I was born in Islington because they lived in London just off Tottenham Court Road.

E: They came for their careers then?

F: Oh yes because this was where all the work was.

E: Do you know any of the places where they worked?

F: Well they worked in Cabin In The Sky with Emily Litler, then when my Mother had us my Father was working in Nightclubs down the West End. He was 60 when my Brother was born so he couldn't dance anymore but he used to do all sorts of things in the nightclubs.

E: Can you remember what was it like for him being Afro-American at that time?

F: Very difficult because it was no dogs, no Irish and no coloureds and as I say he was an elderly man and basically he couldn't go to work because he wasn't English, you know do a proper job. Also he couldn't read and write.

E: As he got older did he notice a change?

F: No my Father was always my Father and he was always right and brought up very strict but he ran away from home when he was 10 years old to go on the stage so he used to fend for himself, but he was a very good cook because my Mother couldn't even boil an egg so there you go.

E: You say you lived in Islington, where?

F: No I was born in Islington but we lived just off Tottenham Court Road near Gough Street. My Sister who was older than me by 14 months and my Brother who was 8 years younger than me I think.

E: Where did you live was it a house or a flat?

F: It was a private house and it's now the University College Middlesex Hospital – part of.

E: What was that house like?

F: It was nice and I tell you what everybody knew everybody else, so if I did something wrong they would hit you and then they would tell your Mother I gave her a clout. You know what I mean, and it was very good because they were always there for you, which seems to have gone.

E: Was it a large house?

F: It was about a 4 storey house and as I say we lived on the top floor and we had 3 or 4 rooms and then we had an Italian family underneath and the Mother used to look after us when my parents were on the stage.

E: You lived in that area of Tottenham Court Road is that where you went to School?

F: Yes to All Souls in Langham Place, we went there when we were 3 years old, I think my Mother wanted to get rid of me.

E: What was the School like?

F: Very strict we are talking about something out of Dickens because children were seen and not heard and you wouldn't dare put your hand up because they would take no notice, they were very, very strict.

E: How long were you at that School?

F: I was at that School from 3 till 5 and then the War came and then we went as I say to Croxley Green in Hertfordshire.

E: How long did you go to Hertfordshire for?

F: Another 5 years I was just coming up to 11 when the War ended.

E: Was there a big difference going from the City to the Country?

F: Oh yes because Evacuee's was a dirty word and if you spoke to anyone at my age they would say exactly the same we were lepers, and we went to school 3 different schools in one day, in the morning we went to Scouts Hall for part of the afternoon we went to the Church Hall and then we went to a place called Harvey Road. It was great fun actually.

E: When you had been there for 5 years did you move back to London?

F: Oh yes I didn't want to come back, you don't go away from your parents for 5 years, initially my Mother came once ever 2 months and my Father came down twice during that 5 years but when you come back to London they are complete strangers.

E: Did you come back to the same place?

F: No we came back to Whitfield Street which is just off Warren Street because we had to move, I don't know why, and I was there until I was 15.

E: In that time you went to school in London did you?

F: All Soul's you could stay until you were 11, you had your Infants and then Seniors and then I won a Scholarship to St Martyn's to do art.

E: And you went there until you finished School did you?

F: No because I didn't do any work for the last couple of years I was going to get thrown out with a friend of mine and I begged and begged and then I did Nursing at the weekends as an Assistant Nurse and then we decided the two of us to go and do General.

E: What were the areas in London like where they nice areas to live in?

F: If we go to back to, forget before the War, if you go back to when I was 11 when I came back to Whitfield Street, I mean basically there was a shortage remember we were rationing and what have you, but it was happy time. It was really happy time you could go to the corner shop and get a pennith of broken biscuits or go to the fish shop and get a pennith of crackling and you could go to the pictures for 5p or Tuppence, a few of us used to go and bunk in to the cinemas it was great fun. There used to be a the Dominion and a cinema called Paramount and there was an old one we used to call the 'Flea Pit' which was called The Tolmas and that was in just off Hampstead Road but I think its gone now.

E: So you noticed a very big difference when you came back?

F: Oh yes, even though the traffic wasn't the same as it is now it wasn't nice. You imagine being out in the field in the summer you could go with your little group and nobody bothered you. It was nice it was healthy and it was fun.

E: So you went into Nursing did you?

F: That's right and then I left with 13 others and 3 of us got a job on a boat in Kent and it turned out to be an ex-boat of the Campbell family and the grammer that had covered the whole upper deck with worse then my front room, you name it, it was on there and we had to clear it. Then because we were getting £2.50 per week then their money ran out we were paying to work so I thought I have had enough of this I am off.

E: So what was that job?

F: It was chief cook and bottle washer basically, it was fun, again it was fun but the boat was falling to pieces.

E: Did the boat move around all the time?

F: Yes the rudder fell off so we had to be towed down the Medway to have a new rudder put on but it was funny.

E: From there where did you go?

F: I came home, well I was a film extra so I didn't want a proper job, I got a job with a very hefty Glaswegian man who collected used cartons and then I repaired them then we delivered them all over the place, I think I was there for 6 years and then we got this place that was in 1961.

E: What kind of cartons were they?

F: Anything, you know you have a television and he would buy them if I had to repair them I did and they were taken anywhere. We had what you call A4's and we used them for everything you could think off. So there was recycling in those days and he got paid for it.

E: Where was that?

F: At the Brecknock Road at Camden Town just off the Camden Road.

E: So it was just the two of you was it?

F: Yes and 3 cats.

E: So you were a film extra as well that's quite interesting how did you get into that?

F: Well I was in Sanders of the River when I was about 6 weeks old. There was very few of us like what they call half and half around, so the people who would play the Africans and when I came back to London it was still going on and the whole family were in films - apart from my Sister who was slightly off white but no it was great fun.

E: Was there any particular films you remember?

F: Cleopatra, Guns of Batasi, Tales of Hoffman, Hot Enough for June, She Who Must Be Obeyed.

E: Did you do that work in London?

F: No we had to go outside, we had an agent and they would ring you up and say auditions blah, blah, blah and this is how it went. You would get up at 5.00 am in the morning and here I was doing the last couple here it's dark and you are walking down to Old Street waiting for the train but that was all part of it.

E: With that did you travel elsewhere as well?

F: No, no we never went on Location it was normally in the studio thank heavens. It's a boring job actually its fun to start with and you miss it when you are not there but really you are sitting around all day. You see what happens here you have Africans and West Indians and I am the referee because they don't like each other believe it or not, well they didn't in my day.

E: So did you do that whilst you were doing other jobs at that same time?

F: No I did that to start with I didn't have another job then I took this job as a carton grader so that I could go to film when I was called. A film came up with Dirk Bogarde and I said look I have a film coming up, then he said it's the film or me then I left within a couple of days.

E: So you came here in 1961? Did you work then?

F: Yes, I am not quite sure I don't think when we came here I was working. I think between leaving nursing and the boat I think I was out of work and got that carton job in between you know what I mean and that's how it went.

E: So have you worked since you lived here?

F: Oh yes I worked for Zettlers Football Pools they were just up the road in Clerkenwell.

E: When did you start with them?

F: 1990 because I had two children and I said I would never go to work until they went to big school.

E: There was quite a gap there when you weren't working, was it hard to get back into work?

F: No I just went there and said I would be an advantage to you and I got the job just like that. I didn't know what I was getting into though.

E: What was it like working there?

F: It was fun for the first 3 months I had 3 women at me all the time, but they had a nasty little accident. Basically, no they did all 3 of them did but it wasn't my fault it's just a coincidence. One fell down, she was going home one night, she was a nasty piece of work and there the BT were doing something and she tripped down this hole and the other one slipped in Marks & Spencers and sadly the other one got mugged. That's hard cheese, that's life (laughs). I stayed there for nearly 13 years then they sold the company to Littlewoods so we were all made redundant but it was great fun.

E: That was in this area?

F: Yeh it's just up the road now it's a big hotel called Zettlers.

E: So did you retire then?

F: No I would have stayed on I would had still been there had they not given it to go up North.

E: Do you know why that happened?

F: Money, the person who ran the company was a very shrewd person and he didn't have an agent when he was selling the business because Mr Zetter was old and he left it all to him, so he sold it and he got whatever agent fees were, he was very good.

E: How did you find it working in this area?

F: I didn't mind it was quite nice because all you do is go out the gate and walk straight down the road and you were there. I think there was a little bit of crime but it wasn't exactly down that road so you know.

E: So before you moved to this area did you live still with your parents? Then you move here or did you have places?

F: There was a gap here when we lived in Whitfield Street just off Tottenham Court Road because I had a dog it was a private house, it was the dog or out you go, so we were all split up. My Brother went into Hutton in Essex my Sister went to Brixton and I went down back to where I was evacuated.

E: So you went outside London?

F: Yes and I used to travel in to go to St Martins then travel home at night.

E: That was when you were a Nurse was it?

F: No that was when I was an Art Student, when I was Nurse I was, it actually was Taplow I used to come home weekends and holidays and what have you. No sorry, the thing is we lived in Russell Square when I was Nursing, really I should have written all this down for you so it doesn't get confusing. I started nursing in 1953 and I can't really put dead dates on it but I was in Herbrand Street then we came here yes that was just of Russell Square.

E: How long did you nurse for?

F: Just under 7 years because when I was an art student I was an assistant nurse and I went to Tooting Broadway where they had a mentally defective hospital then, and then from then I didn't do my finals and they we decided to do General so from there I went to Berkshire I know it's sounding very confusing because these things are coming back to me.

E: What was it like being a nurse then?

F: It was hard work but people were people they weren't what's going on at the moment. It was a lovely atmosphere believe it or not and every nurse treated the patients as friends we had patients in just before Christmas and they didn't want to go home. Then we had, there was somebody in and there was a film with An Alligator named Daisy this is what the film was called and Pinewood studios lent us the alligators to hang up as decoration. I tell you it was great fun, sad of course.

E: Did you enjoy that time?

F: Yeh I did because you had everybody knew everyone else we lived in, the patients were good and so were the staff, there was no bullying unless they didn't behave themselves.

E: The hospitals were they in a good condition?

F: Oh yes and they were so clean because we had a cleaning day once a week, but the Assistants, domestic we used to call them, they would clean every day. But before I went to Berkshire the hospital at Tooting the hospital was full of these children who were really really down syndrome which should never have been there for starters, and then you had other children who shouldn't have lived but then of course the church that wouldn't allow it. You would get people coming in from France and if you had someone from Africa we don't have children like this because they used to do them in, you don't need to record this but it did happened.

E: You say you moved here in 1961 did you move here from outside London?

F: No I moved here it's a bit confusing because being Hertfordshire at the same time as being London, before this was Russell Square before that was just off Warren Street and before that was the War down in Hertfordshire and Tottenham Court Road it's only been 4 places.

E: Why did you decide to move to this area then?

F: Because we had a, it was a Council property and there was my mother my step father myself and my brother and my brother didn't have a bedroom so we put in for a larger place and this one came up because they were just built. I didn't really want this area – I didn't know it.

E: It was chance was it?

F: It was by chance coming here yes it could have been somewhere else.

E: You moved as a family here?

F: Yes there was my Mother and my Brother because my Step Father was a nutter so he was down at Horton in Surrey.

E: What was this building like then?

F: Cold and damp you could sit without falling over stuff but it was good, it was cold. This is a new block nobody knew anybody else so you got to know the people, but of course most of them went to work because you are going back 40 years.

E: People just moved in?

F: Mostly with families or young families you got to know them as time went on.

E: There was quite a lot of families that moved in?

F: Well there was 20.

E: Was it a nice community atmosphere?

F: No because most people went to work or they had children so that you know you didn't see a lot of them. I think its friendlier now then it was say 40 years ago because everybody was trying to get sorted out.

E: Had you lived in a flat before then?

F: Well the private houses are all basically flats you either had 1 floor or 2 floors so you can't say it was a house in London, but in the country it was houses all the time.

E: Did you have to adjust to living here was it different?

F: No because I am trying to think what I was doing? I can't say 100% I wasn't working or I was working but no it wasn't difficult.

E: What was this area like when you moved here?

F: Most of the little 2 or 3 storey old Victorian little houses and they went all the way down road and you had about 4 pubs one here one there and all over the place and it was just like old London then of course they started building the bigger flats it was a bit drab actually it was quaint but drab.

E: Were people like happy or content?

F: I think they were more friendly then, then there are now because you are dealing with supermarkets now you are dealing with big business, there were because they got to know you if you use their shops they got to know you.

E: So there was a lot more smaller shops?

F: There were only little teeny weenie things.

E: What kinds of thing were there?

F: Well I am trying to think how Mitchell Street maybe 3 stories high not like the things across the road.

E: What kind of shops were there?

F: Furniture shops many furniture shops and DIY nuts and bolts I can't think what else was here. There wasn't an awful lot on the other side, I think there might have been, there weren't food shop, I think

there were green grocery shops but there weren't food shops. They did take photographs because I'm a photographic nut can't find half of them, but you see I could look out my window and look right across to nearly Chiswell Street but now they have built all these new you can't see a thing and there weren't any trees in the road. If you look I have one smack against the window and I can't see when the leaves are on the trees it was quite nice.

E: What was Whitecross Street like?

F: I tell you what Whitecross Street Market you couldn't move down there at lunch time, you had the cobblers whose only just gone by the way he went about a year ago, then you had paint shop, a DIY shop you had two green grocers. Trying to think what the other thing was. They weren't all restaurants, yes you had a curtain place on the other side and also that big block the one the on the left Coltash Court that wasn't there I can't remember exactly what was there.

E: That was the shops was there more of a Market as well?

F: Oh I tell you that Market you had a stall all the way down the Market it sold fruit, clothes well you name it, it was there.

E: Do you remember when that changed or when that died off?

F: About 4 or 5 years ago, the pitch here are so expensive so the people think that you can't afford it and they just went and you got to know them too. I am trying to think what, I mean there were lots of clothing shops because there was on the right hand side oh we had a little supermarket where ever body knew everybody else and we always had a fish shop. I can't think of anything else. You had the lock shop, he is still there a new person has taken over. That market is nothing all it is food now.

E: Was that because of Pitch prices?

F: I think a lot of it was and some of the shops are very expensive as well and if you are not doing well then you are going to close, I mean a few of them closed this last couple of months. The market is still going with all the smelly food isn't it.

E: How long have you lived here?

F: 40 years.

E: How has this block, this estate and this area changed?

F: Well this Estate is has changed in the last year because of EC1 putting things into, you know money into it. We used to have a playground, oh no when I first came here it was just a load of rubble and when it was raining the kids used to dance in the puddles, then we had playground and we had a monkey climb and a couple swings and slide. Then we applied to Cripplegate for money because I was Chairperson of the Tenants Association and we got money for another playground and then this last year we have had that playground and we don't like it (laughs).

E: So there is a bit of money going into this estate now, do you think it makes a difference?

F: Well at the moment I think its at a standstill because I want, see that little green patch on the side, I want that with a couple of benches and table so that the older people can go and sit and chat in the sun without the kids kicking the ball in your face you know. I wanted that as a football pitch about 10 years but they said Health and Safety , main road, no, and it would have solved an awful lot of problems wouldn't it.

E: So outside the Estate the area in general how do you think that has changed?

F: It looks nice I must admit it looks nice and the trees were planted when was that about 2 years ago because that one I don't know what they have given it but it has certainly shot up. You just look down the road we had a Comet what was the other one there was a little corner tobacconist that went about 3 years ago, we had a Comet next door to that. Then we had a building that if you had smoked and you had little coupons you could go and change them for goods. There wasn't an awful lot down that side of the road and then you didn't you have that roundabout Old Street because you just walked down then you go down just an ordinary station. You cross the road where the pub is used to have a men's toilet in the middle of the road you know go downstairs I think it's still there because they covered it up. I can't think of anything else of any beauty was there. St Luke's Church has changed because we all thought it was bombed but it was left to go to rack and ruin how long ago was that? Could be 10 years ago it might be 5 years. Prince Charles wanted that for an alternative medicine place, then the freemasons wanted it as there hall. Then the LSO got it.

E: So you moved in 1961 in this area so you would have seen quite a few of the estates go up?

F: Oh yes, yes I have seen because this road was little houses all the way down, we called them redbrick's those little ones, but they are called Bartholomew house. Next door to St Luke's that wasn't there and that great big tall block that wasn't there and all this wasn't there. Because all this used to be a bakery across the road and you could smell the bread that went maybe 10 years ago maybe longer.

E: What do you think about those new buildings?

F: I don't like the high rise and never have done, because it's taken all the character away but I suppose people have got to have a home. Even down Central Street they were houses and all those tall blocks they weren't there. There has been building going on for the last 30 years.

E: Did they used to be a close community?

F: Because I was working you don't get involved, as I say it's only about the last 10-15 years I got involved in the Estate, because you go to work you come home everybody else has gone to work and come home so you don't get involved. But I tell you what they did have which they took away and then made flats of it. There used to be an old school down Whitecross Street to the left it was called Checkers and that was an evening class so you could you go there and do knitting or whatever you liked and you met people but that was gone.

E: Did you use that?

F: Yeh I used it yeh, I used to learn a knitting machine but because I knew more then they did so I was teaching the people who knew nothing, so I thought well this ridiculous. Then I went to learn French and the children could go there on Saturday and do pottery.

E: Sounds like people could go there and meet new people?

F: Of course you could meet all sorts of people.

E: Is there anything like that now?

F: No there is nothing here you go City Lit if you want to do something, it doesn't cover everything you want to do.

E: Do you think there is a lot here to do in people's spare time?

F: I think a lot of people do go to St Luke's I mean the children can learn instruments join a choir you can learn an instrument if you want and join a choir. It's a good thing but I think we need more something but I can't think what. Of course the Leisure Centre wasn't here either but I can't remember what was there. Because I don't go to it for anything important.

E: So you are involved in the Tenants Association? How did you become involved?

F: Well because we used to have Tenants Association and then one of the Tenants across the road in Amias House decided it would be good idea to run a TMO so he got all the bits and pieces and we had people getting involved and this is how it started so what are we talking 5 years? So about 5 years we have running now.

E: What does that involve?

F: Well it involves us going to meetings once a month, any problems either they phone Jenny up or she phones me up, it works well actually it works very well. Because Islington give money to do all sorts of things but our hands are tied a little bit. I suppose since the estate been improved we are taking on more financial responsibility then we should be and we don't like that.

E: What are you financially responsible for?

F: Well I think we have the maintenance of the playground and anything that gets broken basically we have to pay for which I don't think is fair and neither does the community but we will sort that one out one day we hope. It works and the estate does look nice only they don't stop and think because they want to put trees on the ground floor in front of people's windows which is potty. Have you met Liz Kessler oh my God she is work anyway say anything else because it's on tape.

E: Through the Tenants Organisation has that always been in place?

F: No when I first came here it was nothing.

E: So it was the Council?

F: Yes, you go up to the Neighbourhood Office and make complaints it did work because more people done all sorts of different jobs now that has changed. If you want to complain about something or somebody or repairs they were done a lot faster not then the TMO but when it was a Tenants Association. Because the Housing Association has gone down and all the friendly people that were up there seem to have disappeared.

E: So it's a TMO now?

F: Yes a Tenant Management Organisation.

E: Are you part of that?

F: Yeh I am Vice Chair.

E: Does that work better?

F: I think it works because you have a very good caretaker, a very good estate manager, so it's pretty good. I mean Jenny has not been the first one we had another one but we had a load of problems with him, he took us to court and blah, blah, blah but this one works very well and everybody knows our caretaker everybody knows.

E: The area now as you walk through seems relatively safe?

F: I think what happens here is to please, because we didn't have hardly any problems I thought I'm fed up with listening to Kings Square and this one and that one, so you have more policing not on the beat but Tenants Association can go to this meeting and say look on this corner this is happening and in the lift this is happening so it works. I mean we still get an odd, you hear of an odd thing but its nothing like Holloway.

E: Has the area been like this?

F: As far as I know going back a long time we did have a lot of professional criminals in this area, I can't say much because I don't know all the details, oh yeah it wasn't always a saintly place. You still get an odd mugging and maybe a vandalism of a car or a stolen car. The thing is bikes disappear just like that.

E: Push bikes?

F: Yeh.

E: You say there is quite a good policing in this area?

F: Well I think yes now because you only have to phone up somebody and they will look into it I think it is doing very well at the moment. With that we will have crime wave. We had a drug dealing problem here as well but because they were monitored by the police they go elsewhere, it used to down on

Whitecross Street it was terrible down there at one time. King Square, Whitecross Street and here because when you get around the back you can't see what's going on.

E: You say you have had a family?

F: Oh yeah do you want them (laughs).

E: When did you have a family?

F: I had the first one in 1968 and the second one 1976 it was big gap between them because my son was a bit lollypop because he kept falling over and bouncing on his head so I thought well let him get settled first and then I had Alison.

E: What was it like bringing children up in this area?

F: It was okay, we didn't have any problems with ours well apart from a slight medical problem no it was nice and they went to Prior Weston when it was a little school, when it was a little school, do you know Prior Weston now it looks like a fortress. They both went there then my son went to Islington Green do you know Islington Green its up somewhere its now somebody's academy and Alison went to Prior Weston then went over to Chiswick.

E: How did you find that because there isn't a secondary school in this area is there?

F: Well you have for the boys there is that one down there. Because Islington Green was a spin off from Prior Weston and most of the Children were going there he went there. My daughter who wanted to go to theatre school went over to Chiswick.

E: How do they find it going to school outside the area?

F: Oh she didn't mind I took her for the first month because I didn't want her travelling on her own but no she liked it and my son wouldn't even have a day off would he. They might have changed it by the way because Alex and Lou go there and its been turned into an Academy now what happened there it was a very bad school Islington Green and they brought in a new head mistress and she was a right tartar and she brought the school up and everybody wanted to go there in fact they had a waiting list.

E: What happened when they left home did they leave this area?

F: No one of them still at home (laughs) my daughter is still with us, she went to University and then came home, my son left when he was 19 and lived on Jamaica Road or something because he was into music and he did IT he worked for Islington Council learnt all he could and branched out on his own.

E: So he left the area and your daughter stayed? Does she like the area?

F: I don't think she minds, he doesn't like council estates he has this high and mighty thing, he has lived in Jamaica Road brought a house in Bermondsey then from there he sold a house and went to Bedford and he did live in a barn for a while first of all. I not saying the expression close the door do you think

you live a barn, no he lived in a nice area, he lived in a house in Bedfordshire and he has this converted barn but he travels to Wales he commutes to Wales believe it or not.

E: Do you think that this area, do you think it's possible for people to stay in the area? So people can get flats and things?

F: I think you would find if you say to the people here would you like to move half would say no, I don't want to move, we could have moved couldn't we? If you look around there are people above Waitrose that used to live here, so people don't want to go out of this area, some of them do but not all of them.

E: People aren't being priced out of this area?

F: No, but you get more leaseholders, well you *were* but I don't think you will for the next year or so. There are a lot of Leaseholders here too.

E: People can get council flats in this area?

F: I think it's going to be very difficult if people are going to move out then people aren't going to move in, we had an empty flat upstairs which is being done up then we got a family in. There is another one in Wenlake that's empty and it seems to be more people either dying, well basically dying. Then we had a family that only had 2 bedrooms and they have 3 children and ones a boy so they've moved they are only up the road aren't they?

E: So you have never wanted to move?

F: No because how could I move? No, we were going to go near where his Mum lived in Bromley we were going to do an exchange, when we saw that it had a nice garden but the actual house I didn't like, so we decided to stay and I have never wanted to move since. You have everything here tubes, buses the lot.

E: So you think it's a good area to live?

F: It is, it is. I mean wish some, we had a post office of our own and a couple of shops of our own where you would go in and have a chat I wish they were still here like a bakery go and buy a fresh loaf of bread, but time marches on.

E: Where do you think this area is headed?

F: I think where the money is, you take a look at all the offices very expensive apartments I mean I would love to know what they are paying across the road.

E: So you think there is money coming into the area?

F: I think so because you have businesses here I mean at the moment you can say that we don't know because of what is going on, I think before this it was a good place to invest and to do all sorts of things. You know as you go out there is a greenery there is an old building there, that's how it used to work, see

the height of the buildings on Mitchell Street so imagine that all the way down that and that's how it was.

E: How do you think these people coming into the area affects the area?

F: I think it is a good idea but prices are high not because of the people who have lived and supported them it's because of the people who have the money to pay.

E: Do you think they area bringing nothing to the area?

F: No they bring money into the area and I suppose that's important I think its not fair on the residents that have supported all these little shops for years, well there are bigger shops now aren't they.

E: I have gone through my things is there anything you want?

F: Not really eat your cake and drink your tea. I can't think of anything else I mean it's a nice area to be in even when you are going down Central Street it's not bad. On the corner used to be a rag and bone and there was something else, I mean really it has brought it out a lot. I mean Redbricks I called them, they look nice don't they, the only thing I don't like is the high rise because it blocks everything out, but apart from that no I think it's good. Well I don't go out late at night because I don't have to but I still would be afraid to walk down Old Street. Is there anything you have forgotten apart from your cake eat it!