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| **Project: ‘Glasgow’s Highstreets: An oral history…’**  Respondent: Matthew Black  Year of Birth: 1987  Age:  Connection to project: Respondent  Date of Interview: 25th of August 2023 Interviewer: Rachel Kelly  Recording Agreement: Yes  Information & Consent: Yes  Photographic Images: No (Number of: )  Length of Interview: 34 minutes and 32 seconds  Location of Interview: Rachel’s flat in Glasgow  Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics) | | **Glasgow Story Collective** | |
| Time  (from: mins/secs) | Description | | Transcribed Extract  (from- to:  mins/secs) |
| 0.43 | Interviewer asks the respondent during which era he first remembers Glasgow’s high streets. | |  |
| 0.46 | Moved to Glasgow in 2006 but visited the year before. | |  |
| 1.01 | Interviewer asks the respondent to describe his earliest memories of Glasgow’s high streets. | |  |
|  | “I’m from the countryside. I remember looking at Glasgow’s high streets and thinking that they were very big. And that there was a lot going on. I can’t remember specifically when I first saw Sauchiehall Street or one of the other ones. Buchanan…Buchanan Street, yes. That one I found very impressive. I liked how it was all pedestrianized. And fancy… It had lots of fancy shops on it. I suppose that’s still true of Buchanan Street…” | | 1.11-1.45 |
| 1.48 | Interviewer asks the respondent if he went into any of the shops. | |  |
| 1.53 | Remembers Zavvi on Buchanan Street. Bought cheap DVDs there. | |  |
|  | “I know I went into Forbidden Planet. Because I like all that kind of stuff. They sold comics and toys to do with comics and nerd things. So, I would have gone in there mostly to have a look at things. Cause it was quite expensive. And this was late enough on that if I saw something I could go on the internet and see it cheaper there. So, I probably contributed to the murder of the high street.” | | 2.39-3.12 |
| 3.45 | States that the shops were better in 2005 and 2006 than the ones in Inverness. | |  |
| 3.52 | Interviewer asks the respondent about his first impressions of Glasgow School of Art. | |  |
|  | “I think it was a combination though of the Art School and what I experienced of Glasgow that made me want to come here. The building is pretty cool. But, I don’t think if I’d not enjoyed myself in Glasgow generally as much. I don’t think I would of…I don’t think that would have been enough to convince me this was where I wanted to go. Though obviously I was coached to take it as a compliment to be invited to go to the Glasgow School of Art. And do you know what. I did. Yeah, I thought it looked cool. And it was…Yeah, it meant that I could paint and draw, which is what I wanted to do at the time.” | | 4.18-5.26 |
| 5.29 | Interviewer asks the respondent if he went to the cinema or the theatre. | |  |
| 5.32 | Sometimes went to The GFT and sometimes Cineworld. Went to the theatre when friends performing. He enjoyed that. Not sure why he doesn’t go. Went to Derren Brown at The King’s Theatre. | |  |
| 7.39 | Interviewer asks the respondent about living on Sauchiehall Street. | |  |
| 7.43 | Lived right across the road from Campus bar. Didn’t go out much as a student but enjoyed people watching with his friends at night. | |  |
| 8.36 | Interviewer asks the respondent what the streets were like during the day. | |  |
| 8.45 | Was either a nocturnal student or at art school during the day but remembers streets were busy as there were still a lot of shops. Spent a lot of years in that area of Sauchiehall Street and surroundings. Might remember night more as that bit of the high streets really came to life then. | |  |
| 10.07 | Interviewer asks the respondent where he went out to in the evening. | |  |
| 10.10 | Went to the art school union for £1.00 a pint nights on a Thursday. Saw people riding the bull at Jumpin Jacks. Campus. Went to The State Bar and went to Nice and Sleazy but didn’t enjoy it much. | |  |
| 11.47 | Interviewer asks the respondent if he went to restaurants when he was studying. | |  |
| 11.50 | Went to Greggs a lot. Sandwich bar called Quiznos which they rated highly. The noodle bar if they were feeling rich. This was really busy from 3.00am to 5.00am. Went to the 3 in 1 and kebab shops. | |  |
|  | “The Wee Curry Shop, which was, again, hidden round the back. It was on Buccleuch Street. And it was…It was just off of Sauchiehall Street. But just a tiny, tiny little shop that did amazing curries. And all the stuff. All the trimmings with them. And then before that, I think, me and a person I used to live with; neither of us were particularly in to curry before we moved to Glasgow. And then that place made us very in to it. And since then I will, generally, if I found out a place that sells…sells curry in my area. I will make sure and sample it. But I don’t think anything’s quite…There was one particular garlic chilli, chilli garlic chicken that I had an obscene amount of green chillies in it. And it hurt a lot to eat it but the flavour…I’ve never had anything…I’ve not had anything that reaches that…reaches that pinnacle of flavour since. I just…It must have been that it was too many chillies. Cause I can’t bring myself to cook something like that because I know how much I will suffer for it. But it was. It was the most…It was the most amazing food that I’ve ever eaten.” | | 14.01-15.22 |
| 15.23 | Interviewer asks the respondent what inspired him to become a chef. | |  |
|  | “That would of been [laughs]. Actually genuinely come from going to The Wee Curry Shop. And then going through art school and being away from my family. From my mum, who would of cooked me my dinner. Being surrounded by a lot of people who didn’t know how to cook. Nobody knew how to cook. So, it was, at a certain point, I found out somebody had like a Madhur Jaffrey cookbook. And I had no…I didn’t have enough money…I was unemployed and out of the art school by this time. I didn’t have enough money to go out and get a nice curry. Which was something that I’d really developed a taste for. And so I was like, well I’m going to have to learn to cook a nice curry. Cause it will be cheaper that way. And then I did. Like I followed a recipe a few times. And then eventually the interest, sort of, broadened out from there. I still…It’s still one of my favourite things to cook. I don’t generally follow…I just…I don’t generally follow many recipes now. I’ll like read about…I’ll read the story of a…of a food. I’ll read the Wikipedia page or something. And then I’ll go off and try and make something. But still one of my favourite things to make is curry…And then after that learnt more. And then after that got a job at a restaurant. Because you can always get a job in a kitchen. Because nobody wants to work in a kitchen [laughs] after a certain amount of time. But it was yeah, very important. Now that you mention it.” | | 15.27-17.25 |
| 17.26 | Interviewer asks the respondent if he remembers any particular characters on Glasgow’s high streets. | |  |
| 17.30 | Doesn’t remember any characters from that time. Mostly students living on Sauchiehall Street at that time paying high rents which he feels were a con. Rent was very expensive there even then. | |  |
| 18.30 | Interviewer asks the respondent how he felt on the high streets at night. | |  |
| 18.41 | Never found himself particularly threatened. Occasionally got a bit of trouble off the main streets. Doesn’t go to the high streets at night now. | |  |
|  | “If I was going anywhere else in the city to enjoy myself. It would usually…I would maybe go to The West End on like a day trip. Because it’s fancy. Whereas the City Centre is where I’ll go if I want to…Still, if I want to…Yeah, I think there’s still bits on the edges of the city centre where I can still find things in the shops that I want to buy. But I would…Maybe I would stop at a…If it was a nice day I would maybe go to a pub. But I suppose the closest… I’ve been to The Clutha. Because my girlfriend was running a half marathon. And so it was closest to the end of that. But again yeah, that was day time. I don’t…I wouldn’t go on a night out in the city.” | | 20.32-21.25 |
| 21.27 | Interviewer asks the respondent where he would go to in The West End. | |  |
| 21.30 | Kelvingrove Museum and The Hunterian. Says now we have the Burrell back in the Southside there is really no point in going to The West End anymore. | |  |
| 22.05 | Interviewer asks about the shops round about where he lives on Victoria Road. | |  |
| 22.10 | Says it’s still good mostly. Mentions House Party and that he is not sure what that sells. Happy Days. IMEX. Still an old fashioned feel to Victoria Road where there’s some actual businesses. Even the supermarkets serve the community. Bubble tea. Food outlets. Likes The Ginesi’s Ice Cream shop because their shop was downstairs. Likes What The Fudge. Used to like Big Licks. | |  |
| 25.25 | Interviewer asks the respondent if he thinks that the high streets have changed over the time that he has been here. | |  |
| 25.33 | Mentions the vape shop era. Noticed a lot of shuttered shops in town recently. Looked miserable. Seems a bit better now. Space used but different to when he got here. Remembers when Dino’s shut down. Can’t think of any shops on Sauchiehall Street. Thinks it’s a mix of food outlets and design type shops. | |  |
| 28.00 | Interviewer asks the respondent what changes would he like to see if any to the high streets. | |  |
| 28.08 | Says that he misses Woolworths. Liked it as a child up north. Pick and mix and CDs. All the department stores apart from John Lewis have gone. | |  |
| 30.25 | Interviewer asks the respondent what he imagines the future of Glasgow’s high streets to be. | |  |
| 30.30 | More bubble tea places. Places with a unique selling point. Pubs with a menu. Would prefer more places like The Wee Curry shop and other good restaurants. | |  |
| 32.51 | Interviewer asks the respondent if he had the chance to give advice to Glasgow’s current planners and businesses what would it be. | |  |
|  | “I mean this is the thing. My advice isn’t gonna…My advice isn’t going to necessarily make anyone any money. And I know that that’s important. That seems to be the reason that everything gets done. And I’m not going to say these days. It’s been like that for quite a long time as far as I can tell. But, I suppose, it would be more of a request then…I don’t know if I could work out what I want from them. It feels more like a vibe has gone and you can’t really legislate for that.” | | 33.14-34.14 |
|  | Interviewer thanks the respondent for his contribution to the project. | |  |
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