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| **Project: ‘Glasgow’s Highstreets: An oral history…’**Respondent: Elaine BrydenYear of Birth: 1970Age: Connection to project: RespondentDate of Interview: The 19th of July 2023Interviewer: Sher AllanRecording Agreement: YesInformation & Consent: Yes.Photographic Images: No Length of Interview: 36 minutes and 35 secondsLocation of Interview: Sher’s kitchenRecording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics) | **Glasgow Story Collective** |
| Time(from: mins/secs) | Description | Transcribed Extract(from- to:mins/secs) |
| 00.00 – 2.29 | Introduction and early memories. Not taken into town much as not seen in her family as a place for children, except as a special treat pre Christmas and birthdays as a “recce” for presents. Didn’t like the clothes, jut wanted to get to the toys. Remembers Smiths, (Woolies), maybe Argos. |  |
|  | “And I think it was Arnott’s that had the really old lift. That I just liked the lift. I guess the lift was like one of the wrought iron ones with the two that came...That you pulled over. An exterior one and an interior one. And you used to kind of leave your stomach behind going in it. And as a child I used to...I just thought that was brilliant. So I just used to love going in. I mean, not that we really bought a lot of stuff in there because it was posher stuff. But I just used to love going in it for the lift [laughs]. And the display of it and things and the windows at Christmas.” | 2.27-3.04 |
|  | “But than I remember being excited because this shop opened up on Sauchiehall Street called The Walrus and the Carpenter. And I loved that shop. Because I just loved everything about that shop. Because it was just...It was like a wee Aladdin’s cave to a child. I thought it was just brilliant. And it had all the wee handmade dolls, furniture and wee outfits for you dolls. But they were like not just your run of the mill things that you maybe got in mainstream shops. It was just...It was paradise. I loved The Walrus and the Carpenter. I was gutted when it shut. I’m still gutted. I’m not over that yet [laughs].” | 3.05 -3.34 |
| 3.35-5.55 | Remembers tearooms and restaurants on Fraser's. Funny how as a child you focus on the wee things, especially the cakes. Mainly bakers they went to, especially Oliver’s on Union St. Tea / juice and a cake, always a cake. |  |
| 5.56-7.34 | Music – not much recollection of it pre 80s, when used to go into town wanted the cool thing of the day. Went to record shops too, influenced by Top of the Pops. One time she was chased by a gypsy, desperate to tell her fortune who started by saying that she loved music – be bit obvious when she was carrying an HMV bag. She was mortified and her friends ran away laughing.There were shops you you wanted to be seen in boutiques and cool places, not the shops your mother would have gone to. |  |
| 7.35 | Models / events. Only recollection of models was when the St Enoch centre opened – seemed big at the time. Remembers events, people coming out of the shops modelling and radio stations being there. Seemed like something from America, or from down South at least. |  |
|  | “Well I can remember when the St Enoch’s Centre opened. I remember them having little events in there. Modelling and...Cause I remember watching this getting created and it being like amazing. You know. And then eventually it was opened and all excited because this seemed like an absolutely massive shopping centre at that time. Compared to what you get now it doesn’t. But back then it was just like...[gasps]. And yeah, I can remember them having events. And having people coming out the stores and maybe doing a bit of modelling. Or like radio stations going in and having wee events in there. And you kind of watching that. And it seeming unreal or a lot more kind of American than what you would have traditionally thought or whatever. Or, experienced up until then...Well, maybe not even American, maybe just down south or whatever but just kind of spreading up here a wee bit. ” | 7.35-8.28 |
| 11.09 | Cinemas - Going with both family and friends when older. India Jones (the first one), Steve Martin, family films and comedies, never horror – would probably still be in therapy. Loved back to the future – Michael J Fox, only now realises she’s probably taller than him. Remembers the doorman, Frank (everyone who ever went there at the time remembers Frank!), at the cinema in Muirend. He was really strict about ushering folk to their seats and the queue for sweets. He probably wasn’t that old, but seemed terribly grown up to her then.  | . |
| 14.21-15.40 | Theatres – pantomime as a child, Kings or wherever, depended what was on and who was in it. They went to the Citizens a lot as her dad loved the theatre. Doesn’t ever remember getting the penny tickets as can't recall queuing for 5 hours. Always wanted to sit as near the front as possible, wanted to see into the wings, so sorry Dad, no cheap seats. |  |
| 15.40-16.50 | Recalls being in crowd scenes onstage in the Citizen’s when they’d shout out for local extras. |  |
| 16.51-18.30 | Used to go as a family to big musicals in the ‘90s, particularly Cats. Went in a big family group. The cast used to come amongst the audience before the show started and she looked up to see one of the actors crouched on top of the seat in front of her in a costume like a second skin. She didn’t know where to look, and couldn’t go anywhere as she was in the middle of a row.  |  |
| 18.32-19.24 | Used to go to clubs in the ‘90s, Savoy, Cleopatra’s (Clatty Pat’s), Follies and Bonkers with it’s moving dance floor, not good after and few drinks and have a bad sense of balance anyway.  |  |
|  | “Went to Follies as well. Cause I remember the revolving dance floor. And I’m not the best...I’m not the best blessed with natural grace [laughs]. So, the fact the floor was moving underneath me was a bit of a contest[laughs].”  | 18.58-19.12 |
| 19.24-23.00 | In the days before mobile phones and portable home phones she didn't like giving out her phone number as she was an only child and had very little chance of a private conversation. If her Mum got to the phone first, and it was a boy he’d get the Spanish Inquisition and she would as soon as she came off the phone – her mum could see her down the aisle in a white dress. She hated giving out her phone number, but sometimes friends would. |  |
| 23.00 -27.00 | Food after clubs was normally fish and chips, or certainly chips. Chips and cheese. Then later kebabs when they become the thing. They’d sometimes get the night bus, what an experience that was! Or sometimes they’d walk, occasionally with some “random” who’d tagged along. One time they were walking past the Citizen’s theatre when a rat jumped out from the bins, they all screamed, threw their fish and chips in the air and ran – the rat had a good supper that night! |  |
|  | “Depending on when you left you could get the night bus. And that was just like...that could just be completely crazy [laughs]. It was like... I mean there was just like every bammer in the place got on that bus. But at the same time it’s all part of the experience. It’s fun and everything. Because I think they were talking on the telly, the other day, about getting rid of night buses or something. And I thought -that would be such a shame. Because that was, kind of, you survived it [laughs].” | 23.51-24.17 |
| 27.00-30.30 | No recollection of large parades as a child, just the Orange walk which was frowned on in her family. Once asked at school to write an essay on a colourful parade – in Glasgow? Really? There were small local parades around Battlefield which she was in, baton twirling and part of her dance class. Much later she has memories of getting caught up in an Orange walk. She was on a bus, going into town to meet friends when the bus was Orange walk was crossing the bridge. She didn’t want to be seen as part of it, so she scurried along with her hood up, trying to hide. |  |
|  | “So we’d all to get off [a bus] and we were all sort of directed to walk this way and across this bridge. And I remember we’d just got to the bridge and we’d just started to walk across it when the parade went off. And all the orange walk people started to walk as well and the bands started playing. And I was going-I look like I’m with them [laughs]. I look like I’m now part of the orange walk. I’m going-I hope the BBC aren’t here filming this or anything like that. Or I’m going to be seen on telly and everybody in my work is going to see me and they’re going to be-Why were you in the orange walk? So, I was kind of like that with my hood up like that trying to run across. And being like- they’re nothing to do with me. I’m just trying to get into town[laughs].” | 29.37-30.13 |
| 30.30-31.50 | Town at night – Now it’s going for a meal and perhaps a few drinks, but certainly wants to be home and tucked up by midnight. Too old now for clubs, but too young for tea dances.  |  |
| 3.50-32.561 | Used to get the gig guide and go to gigs. COVID shut things down, but really must get back into it now things are opening up again. |  |
| 32.55 | Interviewer asks the respondent what she thinks the future of Glasgow’s high streets will be. |  |
|  | “But I would like, you know...And this thing they keep talking about, the reinvention of the high street. And they’re constantly talking about it, but it feels like just a sound bite in a lot of ways. But it would be nice if we could have these wee independent quirky shop. Like, we talked about The Walrus and Carpenter. Or just like the shop where, you know, I go and get my Kimchi and things like that. Gomo Kimchi, there’s the plug for that[laughs]. Not big chains of shops. Like there’s one in Mount Florida- the Sunshine No 1 thing as well. You know it’s just somebody having...Somebody just having a dream just to have their shop doing a particular kind of thing. Selling a particular thing they’re maybe good at. Or, getting in local people and selling their stuff. And places to hang out. Cafes...So, it would be nice to see wee cafes that maybe opened later at night...Like I don’t know if that Bees Knees cafe is still there and sometimes has events. You know music things and stuff. Things like that. More places like that at night round about would be nice. I think to some extent it is starting to get like that. But it would be good if Rates were more reasonable that these kind of things could open up. Because I think that is a barrier to a lot of people.” | 33.20-35.38 |
|  | Interviewer thanks the respondent for her contribution to the project. |   |
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