

Ted Malloy

Ted, how long have you actually lived in Wheatley?

30 years.

So you know it well?

Yes, very well actually

Where did you come from?

Well, I came from Glasgow originally, in 1947, but I've been working around the country most of the years. I came to Oxford to do some work - Harwell

And what was Wheatley like 30 years ago (ed ie. 1955)

Ooh, you knew everybody in the street... and mostly Wheatley families then; its changed an awful lot since the shops, and new people coming in - very nice people come in but you miss the (?) old people, the older generation that was here, they sort of died out really - and they knew the village very well

Was it quite a small place when you came?

About a thousand inhabitants- not so large, 'cos a lot of estates have been built since then- Littleworth houses, Ladder Hill, Howe Close have all been built since then - its been increased to about three thousand, three and a half thousand now

'Course it's very near Oxford - so you can see why people want to come here

Oh yes, it's the ideal situation actually, to go into Oxford; I find the best way to go into Oxford from here is by bus

Well that makes a change (laughter!). You've been involved in a lot of things, haven't you since you came to live here.

Mostly football, with the young people, and as I said, with Mr Peter Audley- Miller, we started the first rugby club that Wheatley ever had., we managed to get them a hall in Holton, which we turned into a club, which was doing not too bad really, well established - that was in 1970's

What about football?

Well, football as you know, I played in Glasgow .. for a first division team, but not too well known, then my two sons come down here, one played for Oxford United , and the other boy, he plays for the John Radcliffe

So it's in the family then? (It's in the family)

And my twin grandchildren, they're playing for Littleworth

So you're still keen then?

Oh yes, very keen, but I don't travel as much as I used to - not so much the winter, anyway

Who do you support now?

Partick Thistle and Glasgow (laughter!)

In Wheatley, you helped establish some football, didn't you?

Oh yes, very much so; see, we run two sides on a Saturday, one on Sunday morning., five-a-sides, six-a-sides and also I was involved in a fete here years ago for the children - floats used to pass through the village, but over the years, that has changed to play games, not involved in that now, but I were at the start, and I was also on the committee of the Friends of Morland House - deprived children -at the top of Park End -which we got them a minibus there, over the years- so I've been involved quite a bit

What about now? - What are you up to now?

Well, I was a member of the Parish Council for a number of years, which I've gave up now - but you see, I'm doing care taking - in the hall itself - which consists of the main hall, Marion's (ed. Audley-Miller) coffee area - there's a clinic here - a library, which is changing actually, - we also have the RSPCA here, so it's quite an active hall in itself. And then, of course, we have (?) at night-so it's well used..

.. It doesn't sound as if you've given up a lot - you seem very..

No, I'm active enough; I'm a great walker actually. I walk enough but, especially with animals, and that (ed. he was well known for constantly walking his dog round the village), and I do a bit of doggy watching as well

You do that as well?

People phone up and say 'can you look after my dog for a few days', so..

So you really love dogs then?

Yes, I love all animals - I wouldn't even kill a spider

You mentioned earlier on in your life that you were a ship's engineer; that must have been interesting?

Yes, it was. I sat an apprenticeship on the Clyde with a company called Haydens .. (?) and I had to do one trip after apprenticeship, which was to Japan, ..then unfortunately, the war started (..?..) so I decided I was very unsettled, so I come down to London, worked for a company, Matthew Halls, which carried out power stations, atomic centre in Harwell- was down there,

and various oil..? travelled all over the country with them for a number of years, and came to Oxford to do some Universities here-1 don't know how I got to Wheatley, but that was the last (laughter!)

I wonder how you find Wheatley, rather cushy, south of England, compared to Glasgow?

Very much so; I go to Glasgow, now and then, but I have no interest ever going back to Glasgow. Just go back for memories. I'd never stay in Glasgow. I love Wheatley. And the people are nice. We do have our moments, but then we all have, don't we? On the whole we get on very well, and I'm so well known-1 don't know if it's famous or infamous! (laughter), because before I had this dog, I had a dog that snapped it's head all the time..so, I do enjoy life, actually. My wife, she came down here, oh, after I'd been down here quite some time - she's settled in now, but you wouldn't understand what she said. She's Scotch.. and my son's married here with family, so they're all settled.