

## Transcript of interview with Lee Paton

Interviewed by Moyra Davidson and Janet Foreman 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018

**0:00**

MD. What are your memories of your parents and grandparents?

LP. My parents were late starters; they were 40 and 42 by the time that I was born. My mother had never intended to get married, having grown up in a large family in Northampton. She was from a Northamptonshire family, leather people. Her father was what was called a wholesale leather and grindery merchant, grindery being the tacks and tools that were used for leather. So, my mother on coming here was an outsider, an incomer.

My dad grew up at Chapelcroft, which is between Auchencairn and Palnackie, with his three sisters and his brother. My grandparents came down from Ayrshire in the 1916; I think there was quite an influx of farmers from Ayrshire to Galloway at that time.



**GRACE (GRANNY PATON) JESSIE, HUGH (LEE'S DAD), ANDREW, BUNTY, JEAN AND ANDREW (GRANDPA)  
LATE 20s**

LP. My grandmother died before I was born, but my grandfather I remember quite well. He was an Elder of the church, and if you go into Auchencairn church you can see a little brass plaque commemorating some bells which he donated to the church. The village bells go 'ding ding ding ding ding ding' in the traditional way on one note, and my grandfather donated a recording which all through the 1970s rang out 'ding-dong ding-dong ding dong' (here Lee sings the notes to show how her grandfather's recording has the bells sounding different notes) which sounded very out of place in a rural setting. My parents were not church goers, they were both atheists and they were quite embarrassed by this ding dong that used to ring out across the village. He was a dear old soul, my grandfather. He died when I was about eight years old, so I don't remember so much about him, but when he died, the church quietly dropped the recording and went back to 'ding ding ding ding', at which my mother said, 'Thank God for that'. My grandparents were at Chapelcroft and the children, my dad and his brother and his sisters all went to Palnackie Primary School, but they went to church in Auchencairn for some reason. It's kind of halfway, Chapelcroft, it's right on the march (between parishes) So I don't remember so much about my grandfather because he died when I was eight years old. My mother, as I said, came from Northampton. Her mother used to come up to visit sometimes.

MD. How did your parents meet?

LP. My mother came up from Northampton on holiday. She used to go on holiday every year with a friend, Betty. They used to go abroad, but that year Mum's father had died, and she didn't want to go abroad, but her friend, Betty, knew 'a nice little place in Scotland, we'll go and stay up there'. They stayed at the Balcarly Hotel, which was a much smaller hotel then. So, my mother met my father who was an unmarried farmer with a sports car! But she said, 'once we had kids, of course, we had to get a four-seater!'

MD. So you didn't know your mothers . . .

LP. I didn't know my mother's father. I knew her mother. She lived to a ripe old age, but we didn't see so much of her because she was in Northampton. And I didn't know my father's mother. She died before I was born.

MD. I'm going to ask about your home surroundings, the home you were brought up in.

LP. I was brought up in the farmhouse where Ross, my brother lives now. In many ways it was quite idyllic. People often say it must have been idyllic, your upbringing, but our mother was an alcoholic so that slightly tarnished things. She was really a city girl and had had her own business in Northampton and didn't really take to 1960s rural Galloway. She tried very hard, and she did throw herself into gardening, she did her own leatherwork and craft work, but she was not a very happy person really.

**05:09**



**LEE, PAT AND ROSS 1964**

MD. Her craft work though, did she sell it?

LP. She had her own factory in Northampton making components for leather goods, handbags and shoes and things like that, which she folded not long after she got married. She kept it going for a little while, but she brought some of her leather equipment up and she had a little workshop across from the farmhouse and she used to make handbags and baby shoes and things and sometimes sell them to shops but she never really did it commercially. She actually opened a little craft shop at the farm where my son Callum now has his music studio. The Old Granary Craft Shop, selling local products, but it lasted, I think less than a year before she realised it wasn't really a goer. It wasn't really the fashion at the time. Nowadays if you had a craft shop there would be a little cafe with it. But she had this lovely idea of producing stuff herself, selling local crafts and employing local people. But she said people used to come down and buy a postcard. And it was too out of the way as well I suppose. That affected her quite badly. She had a tendency to drink anyway but that really was the nail in the coffin.

MD. Did she have friends?

LP. Yes, she did. She did make friends. I think she tried very hard. She was quite friendly with Betty Lindsay, Willie Lindsay's mother. Yes, she did have friends.

MD. There was you and Ross. Have you other brothers and sisters?

LP. No, well just Ross that I grew up with. My Dad then re married (after mother, Pat, died in 1980) Jan's mother. Jan O'Donnell's mother. Jan's my stepsister. My dad bought the farm in 1947, well, he bought the farm with help from his family. He was just out of the Air Force, having not wanted to take over Chapelcroft which was my grandfather's farm, it was a rented farm. My grandfather had retired. His other son was in a farm, and his daughters were married, and my dad went off to the war, and I suppose he thought he might not come back. So, he retired and they moved into the village. They lived down at The Muse at Balcary. When my dad came back out of the Air Force, he bought Torr in 1947. I can't remember where I was going with that question.

*(Lee's dad met Joyce Oliver soon after buying the farm when she came as part of a land army type task force to help out on the farm. He married Lee's mother in 1959 and Joyce emigrated to Australia. Lee's mother, Pat, died in 1980 and in 1982 her father, Hugh and Joyce were re united and got married in July that year)*

JF. There was help after the war from the government to increase food production, Is that right?

LP. 1947 was when all the big agricultural acts came in because of course there was still rationing for quite a long time and people were really quite frightened of being hungry in an island nation. Oh yes, there was a lot of help. My dad had never really been interested in farming. He had no interest in horses and all that sort of thing, you know, hand milking cows and all that stuff.

JF. Ross told us he didn't like animals, it was more machinery, is that right?

LP. Dad and Ross, they liked machinery but weren't that keen on animals. But after the war, everything was becoming quite mechanised and that was much more his thing. He came out of the Air Force not really sure what to do with himself and thought about starting a garage because of his interest in things mechanical. So, he came to the farm at a good time for him. There were subsidies. He bought Torr and dug in water pipes and all sorts of things.

JF. Ross told us all sorts of stories about the drains.

LP. The drains were put in by the previous owners in the 1870s by the Ovens family. But Dad did a lot of work to modernise the farm.

JF. He said there had been 70 Irish Navies.

LP. There were more than that. I think there were probably hundreds. It's all written down somewhere but in the 1870s, that was done, by the Ovens family who owned the farm before my dad. The Ovens family had the farm for three generations from 1867 until 1947 when my dad bought the farm. And Tom Ovens who lived at Torr House with his two sisters, they kept the farmhouse, he was a great source of information. He lived until . . . he died after I was born, about '66 I think Tom died. He gave my dad a lot of information about the farm. And before my dad died, I got him to write down everything he knew about the farm and a lot of that information had come



**TORR HOUSE. TOM OVENS, ANDREW PATON WITH BABY LEE, PAT, BETTY OVENS, ROSS, MADDIE OVENS 1963**

9:53

from Tom Ovens and a lot of it was oral history and so if he hadn't written it down it all would have been lost. Tom's family were merchants from Galashiels and Tom, as a young man had been sent to Russia to sell fertilizer to the Russians. They were in everything. Buying Torr was just another string to their bow.

**10:18**

MD. How old is the farm?

JF. Made of five crofts I read.

LP. It was made of five crofts. It was owned by the monks at Dundrennan Abbey, and it was farmed by the Cairns family, descendants of John Cairns who built Orchardton Tower. They were farming it when the monks had it and eventually came into possession of Torr and Auchencairn via Crown Charters, I'm not really sure of all the historical terms, but they had it until the Ovens family bought it. The Ovens family bought it in 1867 from descendants of the Cairns family, I think it ended up being owned by three daughters and they were all scattered and married. It had been five crofts until the Ovens family bought it, and they amalgamated it into one unit.

MD. Was it always cattle?

LP. I expect so, yes cattle and sheep. There's something that's actually changed quite a lot. My dad always grew crops. There was always a certain amount of barley and oats and wheat grown and the weather has pretty well put an end to that now.

MD. Would you say the weather has changed?

LP. Yes Definitely. Torr is quite a wet farm even with the drains.

MD. Do you remember drier days or are we all a bit rose tinted?

LP. Well, I think you do always ask yourself do we remember it differently, do we just remember it as long hot summers? But trying to grow crops now is so difficult. You can't get winter crops into the ground in the autumn, and you can't get the ground ploughed in the spring and you can't get things to ripen and struggle to harvest them, so definitely, the ground conditions are much more difficult. I remember Ross saying once that you used to get a couple of bad years in ten when you struggled and now, we get a couple of good years in ten, it feels like! So, we're having to rethink. When my dad came here, he had potatoes. Everybody grew potatoes, everybody grew oats even if it was jut for the horses. Everybody had sheep, you know, farms were much more mixed, through necessity there were more locally produced things. I think my grandfather made cheese when he was at Chapelcroft with the spare milk, because if you had a glut of milk, you wouldn't be able to get it away.

MD. Would that be to provide people in the village or further away or just for home use?

LP. Well, I guess a bit of everything. A bit for home use and a bit for local markets as well. I don't know, I don't suppose the milk went very far. By the time my dad was farming there would be refrigerated lorries, but I guess it would have gone to the local creamery. Dalbeattie had a creamery until fairly recently. Before the milk tankers, of course, they had the churns which you still see. People have plants in them! The hill (The A711 between Torr House and Torr Farm) there was

called Milk Stile Brae because that's where there was a little platform for the milk churns to sit on. And the other thing about that road is, the bit of the A711 that comes through Auchencairn is called Dunrod Road. Occasionally when I was a child, we would get letters still addressed to Dunrod Road and Dad said, that's what it used to be called and nobody uses that now, it's the A711. But I didn't realise until fairly recently when I was at the Range (Dundrennan) with David Hawker on a botany walk, there's a big old ruin there and it's called Dunrod Mill. And I had one of those light bulb moments. If I'd looked on a map, I'd have known but I always wondered, why's it called Dunrod Road? There was a mill up there and it must have been a really important mill especially considering Auchencairn and Dundrennan were much more scattered and so I presume that's why it as called Dunrod Road.

MD. And there's Fagra Mill along that way in Dundrennan.

LP. There're mills all over the place.

JF. You can learn a lot from old names.

LP. I don't know if anyone else in the village remembers that it was called Dunrod Road.

**15:05**

MD. Moving onto your daily routine at home, getting up, going to bed, what food was eaten? Mealtimes, did people eat together, separately?

LP. Yes, we definitely ate together. We tended to have the main meal at night, and it was always quite late and always called supper. Whereas my friends used to have tea. Or they would have lunch and then dinner. We used to have Dinner at lunch time! And later on it was supper which I always assumed was a kind of English thing that my mother had brought because all my friends had tea at five o'clock and we seemed to have supper at seven o'clock, it was always much later on in the evening but it was just probably how they liked it. My mother had a big garden, there was a lot of home produce, and it was always cooked from scratch.

MD. Chickens?

LP. We always had our own hens. Lovely! It's one of my childhood memories actually is the hens scratting about in the dust in the summertime. I love that sound of chickens.

MD. And was it your job to collect the eggs when you were wee.

**16:30**

LP. Quite often. My parents were great recyclers We always had a hen bucket in the corner of the kitchen. A compost bin under the sink. Bottles and tins went to the farm dump. We don't have

farm dumps anymore! Somebody came once to do an inspection of the farm and they said, do you have a farm dump and the answer you're going to give me is no!

JF. They must have been great place to find old things.

MD. So they knew you had them, but you're not meant to have them?

LP. Well, it's been more recently it's become greatly restricted.

MD. Would that be a midden.

LP. Well, that would be more for the muck, you know, for the dung. The farm dump, well, anything and everything would get chucked in there. People would put their old furniture, beds, bottles and tins, empty spray cans and all sorts of horrors and you're just not allowed to do that now.

MD. Would you have a bonfire?

LP. Yes, regularly but restrictions are quite tight now. My dad used to burn all the newspaper and cardboard in an incinerator at the bottom of the garden and of course he would burn plastic there as well, which was odd bits and pieces back then but nowadays there's so much more plastic. But always there was a compost bin and a hen bucket to feed the hens.

JF. Did you have pigs at any time?

LP. We never had pigs. It was never a big thing round here. When I do talks at schools about farming, they always ask, do you know anything about pigs, and I don't know anything about pigs. I think when my dad was a child, every farm had a pig and they all went round and helped to slaughter because he used to tell the story about Screele, Screele was the last place to have a pig and he was asked to go and shoot the pig because he had a rifle, and he was one of the few people in the area who had a rifle and he said this pig was so friendly. And my dad did a wonderful impersonation of the pig and it snuffled up to him and came for a scratch, and he thought lets get this over and done with as quickly as possible. So, he aimed for the pig between the eyes, and he didn't realise that apparently pigs have a really thick skull, and he said the bullet bounced off the pigs skull and he said it ran squealing to the other side of the pen and looked at him as if to say, what did you do that for! And he had to go back and do it again. I don't know when that was.

MD. Do you remember anybody else having a pig, an of your school friends?

LP. Not when I was a child. John (Crosby) and Judy Spinks (Island View) to have a couple of pigs and Maggie Lindsay had pigs for a while. It's become a hobby thing again and you know, they would get someone to come and butcher it for them whereas in the old days they would do it all themselves on the farm. Make black pudding and all that. But that was before my time.

**20:02**

MD. What about the food that you ate? Has it changed from what you had before?

LP. Not vastly. I do remember concentrated orange juice. Little tins, I can't remember what it was called. Before that, if you wanted orange juice, you squeezed it! But it was these little tins of concentrated stuff that you watered down, and I don't remember it tasting particularly lovely but now of course you get cartons of everything, and we didn't get that then. What I do remember is that you didn't get tomatoes and lettuce out of season or strawberries or all the stuff you get now all year round. And my mother didn't even like to buy apples because we had apple trees in the garden and we had apples out of the garden, but they used to ripen back then. I tried growing apples myself and it was a real struggle finding varieties that would ripen, you know, in the Scottish climate. There were some lovely little apples, I don't know what they were, quite small apples in the garden that would always ripen. Yes, lots of home produce, lots of freezing, soups, always soups, boiling up chop bones for soup, everything was used which I do myself still. The children aren't so good at using up all the bits. I think I've brought them up to, but in the hope they'll copy my example, but . . . What's in the supermarkets is quite different.

MD. And would you have television? Or was that a new thing?

LP. Oh, we had television. Black and white television and we were the last family in Auchencairn I think to get a colour television.

JF. When I grew up the place, we went to see the coronation was a farm. They were the only people with a television.

LP. Everyone had a television when I was a child. I remember being astounded when I was told by my dad that they hadn't had television when he was young. He was born in 1921! Colour television was the big thing when we were children. Mum said no to one because she thought the colour on them was just awful because the early colour televisions weren't brilliant and it was years before we had a colour telly. Everybody else had a colour telly before us.

MD. And colour in newspapers wasn't good at the time either.

LP. Dad's early History of Auchencairn, the copying of the photographs was quite an issue and are not that clear. It got better in later editions.

JF. Did he tell you the stories that were in the history book?

LP. Well, I knew them because he did that in the 70s when I was a child and I was very conscious of that whole process of him and Andrew Grey doing the whole thing. He did the history one and did Tales of Auchencairn, some of which was taken from Galloway Gossip and some of the old books that are around and some were his own about local people. There was one my dad did, called The Saga of a Baga which was the story of Emily (Walker) and the bag of potatoes, I don't know if you're

familiar with that one. It's a jokey story and everyone remembers Tales of Auchencairn for that story, and he nearly fell out with Andrew Grey because Andrew was a slightly more sober character who didn't think my dad should be making up stories. But it was very funny, and it was loosely based on a true story. When my dad first came to the farm, he had potatoes and all the people in the village used to come out in October and of course the October holidays was the Tattie holidays. He said kids used to come by the bus load from Dalbeattie and Castle-Douglas to pick the tatties and he said one time a bus load of children came, and he said they weren't ready to pick and he said, I had to give them all sixpence to go home again.

MD. I was going to say would they get a penny or something.

**24:48**

LP. Oh yes, it would be their pocket money, and we have old cine films of the tattie howking. But Emily who was a bit of a local character, Emily Walker, she features large in the cine films. While everyone else is running away from the camera, Emily's right there! At the end of the day she said to my dad, Right, if I can carry that bag of tatties out of the field, you'll let me have it. So, there was a bet on and that's where the story came from. Emily always said she managed to carry the bag of tatties all the way home, that's what she told me, but my dad said, no, she didnae make it, I picked her up and let her have the bag of tatties anyway.

MD. How old would she be?

LP. Emily, oh, she must have been in her forties then. She was kind of my dad's generation. Anyway, he made up this story with lots of local references and talked about all the people in the story and of course, for people now who don't know all the people in the story it's not all that relevant. The tattie howkin' was before my time again. I don't remember my dad having tatties. He gave them up because it was too wet. But that was a great social thing, I think.

MD. So were there any other occasions like that?

LP. It took much longer to do all these jobs, the tractors were smaller, and it involved far more staff and that's one of the things that's changed over the years of course is staff and it's less sociable. You don't have the families and kids running about on farms, so it was all quite different. When I talked to Robert Caldow about the farm when he was a boy, you know, there was something like twelve staff. Then we were down to four or five.

JF. And now what?

LP. Well, there are quite a few of us kicking around just now because Callum's home and we took on somebody extra but yes, farming can be quite a lonesome existence now.

MD. Tell me about clothes? As you were growing up perhaps as a teenager did you find being further out from the town, harder to keep in with the fashion, or maybe you weren't bothered.

LP. Not really no. It was quite easy to keep up with the fashions if you could persuade your parents to buy you things. There wasn't, obviously, stuff online and it wasn't so easy to get away to town and buy stuff. The thing I remember as a child I remember the clothes were quite uncomfortable. We didn't have fleeces, and we didn't even have sweatshirt material.

JF. You didn't have to deal with liberty bodices!

LP. My stepmother, Joyce, used to talk about liberty bodices. She went to Cheltenham Lady's College, and they had liberty bodices and woolly tights, and she said they were fine for the first wear but as soon as you washed them . . . I remember scratchy wool, lovely white socks for school that were soft when they were new and as soon as you washed them, and you know, no Lycra or anything. Jeans had no stretch in them. It's these things we take for granted now, clothes are so much more comfortable than they were. Knickers had knicker elastic that pinged.

JF. Was there school uniform?

LP. No, there was no school uniform at Auchencairn until my children went there and they started having these sweatshirts. Which was a little bit sad actually because I remember the carol service at the church the kids always put on their glad rags, you know, their best, and the same for the school photographs they were all dressed up in their bright clothes and as soon as everyone had these sweatshirts they all started wearing sweatshirts and they all looked the same and I thought it was a real shame. I've still got some photographs of my children at school, you know, Aileen with her bright dress on. Special dress for the school photograph which is quite nice. It's the kind of thing that comes in and everybody does it because they're available and a lot of parents like that, a sweatshirt with the school's name on.

MD. So you had all your primary days at Auchencairn. Did you enjoy primary school?

**29:51**

LP. When I think back on school days, I don't think I ever struggled at school or got into terrible trouble.

MD. Did you have a best friend?

LP. I had a best friend in primary one who left. She actually went to Libya. I presume her father must have been a businessman. The grandfather was Jack Broadbent who owned Balcary Bay Hotel then and they lived down at The Muse. Janey Brown her name was, and I've always known where Libya was because that's where Janey went!

MD. Playground games?

LP. We did play marbles and conkers. There was a season for conkers and marbles and hopscotch. We would go through phases of playing tig and skipping ropes.

MD. Chinese ropes? With the elastic bands.

LP. No, I don't think we ever did that one, but we did all the skipping songs, balls against the wall, handstands, cartwheels. I could never do handstands and cartwheels, I'm just not strong enough in the arms. I could do a head stand, but I won't demonstrate it for you now because it wouldn't come out well on the tape! And I'm not sure my neck would take the strain now. There was a lot of that kind of thing.

MD. How many children were at the school and what was the date?

LP. The date I was at the school, 1968 I started there which was just after the school had been altered. The flat roofed kitchen and staff room had been built on about then, between Ross starting school three years before me and me starting, they did the alterations, and I think before that the toilet block was still outside. You can still see the mark on the dyke where it used to be. I guess there must have been thirty or forty children, but it's fluctuated over the years.

MD. Did the boys and girls sit separately?

LP. No, we sat in separate classes, primary one, two and three.

MD. Did you sit in rows?

LP. In primary one we were in a little block and then the primary twos and threes were in rows. Now if you go to the primary school the staff room is chock-a-block with people but then there was the head teacher who lived in the schoolhouse.

MD. Was that a Mr Lewis?

LP. It was Mr Lewis when I first started, he went to Kirkcudbright after that, Fred Lewis, and then there was Archie Ferguson, I think you know, the bee keeper, and then there was Geoff Bolton who was a probationer I think, he was a young teacher, I think it was his first job and he was there for two or three years but his wife had trained in England to be a teacher and so she couldn't teach in Scotland and so they went to Sunderland in the north of England and then we got Bob Mapstone after that. Norma Maxwell came after Bob. Bob was there for a long time. He came in primary seven and he was still there when Callum (Lee's son) started school (1993) so he was there for a long time.

MD. Was there division in the playground between boy's games and girl's games?

LP. Sometimes. Sometimes we all played together and sometimes the boys would go off and play football.

MD. It wasn't forced?

LP. No, we used to have a sewing teacher, it was actually Jose Brydson latterly, and the boys used to play football while we did sewing.

MD. So they were outside having fun.

LP. Well, we had fun too. I did anyway because I liked sewing. It was just once a week

MD. Almost as a treat

LP. Well, I think it was seen as something girls ought to be able to do. When I went to Kirkcudbright Academy we did sewing as well and we actually made our own clothes and it was sort of just at that stage where clothes were becoming so cheap that it wasn't worth it any more but we were still being taught then, in I guess it would be the late 70s, still being taught to make our own clothes.

MD. And have those skills stayed with you would you say?

LP. Yes, I think I could still follow a pattern, and I can still use a sewing machine.

MD. Knitting?

LP. I'm not much of a knitter.

**34:59**

MD. Did you do knitting at school?

LP. I don't think we did actually. In the Brownies we had to knit a string dish cloth.

JF. Was there Brownies in the village?

LP. There was Brownies in the village for a little while. It was run by Eve Gilroy who was Piet Gilroy's mother. It was at the school, and I was in the Brownies for a little while, but I didn't like it very much. I think I found Eve Gilroy quite scary. And then there was Girl Guides and that was run by Jose Brydson and Elice Hendry, and I went to the Guides for much longer, that was quite good fun. We used to go down to Rascarrel and cook our lunch. We would take a tin of soup or something. We would have two fires, one to cook on and one for rubbish. We would go to clean the beach, and we would make a big pile of the plastic and set fire to it! That was one of the things we did often, walk down to Rascarrel from the village and toast marshmallows. I don't remember doing many badges, but we had fun and we used to meet once a week in the school.

MD. Did you ever go on camp?

LP. Once I went on camp, just once.

MD. We never did, and I always heard about others doing it.

LP. There were midnight hikes and things like that. Before the Brownies there was a Girls Club in the village which I remember being enormous fun. I can't remember much about it, I was quite young, I think I was probably only five or six, but I do remember sitting in the village hall doing crafts, making cards and thing with Uhu glue and passing it round and sticking things down with the other kids sitting around. I don't remember what else we did but I do remember doing the crafts.

MD. Someone organised that then. Would that be in the school holidays then?

LP. I've no idea, I can't really remember. I just remember going to The Girls Club and making cards. And it might only have been one summer, or a few weeks, but it's something that really stuck with me.

MD. What about going to the pictures or anything like that?

LP. Well, there was the old Palace Cinema in Castle-Douglas which is now flats just as you go across the first crossroads.

MD. Opposite the Red Cross

LP. Yes, that's where the Palace Cinema was.

MD. Not so far away then. Did you go by bus?

LP. We didn't go by bus much. Well, I used to go to Kirkcudbright on the bus when I was at Kirkcudbright Academy because we used to go in to meet our friends in Kirkcudbright, go to Discos and go to the fair and we used the bus into Kirkcudbright quite a lot but not in the other direction. We usually just got a lift to the cinema. We would have boned Dad or somebody else to take us and it was one of these old cinemas, it was a bingo hall as well. My dad laughed once because somebody had put up the BINGO sign and made a mistake and put BINOG, and he was never sure if it had been done on purpose. But it was one of those cinemas when you went it was never very full and latterly it was always a bit damp and smelled of smoke from the floor down below where the bingo was.

MD. And the bingo was going on at the same time?

LP. Not at the same time. If the bingo was on it would be down on the bottom floor. If we were at the cinema, we were usually up in the gallery.

38:37

MD. What sweeties did you enjoy?

LP. Well, we had a Spar shop down at the bottom (next door to) where Janet (Ibbotson) lives.

MD. Did they have a penny tray?

LP. I don't remember that actually. There had been a shop there for a while I think, but in the early 60s a couple came up from London called Iris and Doug Lees, from Billericay, and they had a Spar shop there and it was open all hours. In the summer it was open eight until eight and it was open every day of the year, even for a few hours on Christmas morning. And they sold alcohol, ice cream, some clothes, sliced meat, it was an excellent shop. They used to trail away to Manchester to the Cash-and-Carry. And my parents weren't church goers, they were atheists, and Doug and Iris Lees were the only other couple in the village (who didn't go to church) They were Communists, in the days when there was a Communist Club in Dumfries, and Dougie was the Chairman. They ran the shop, and it was very well used, and I think they were quite well liked by the locals. They reckoned they were never really accepted because they were communists and because they were from London, but they ran a brilliant village shop and yes, we used to go in there for sweets, and they always had a superb array of sweets! That's where the pocket money got spent.

**40:24**

JF. In big jars?

LP. Well, no they didn't have them in big jars. I do remember a little shop in Kirkcudbright that we used to go to when I was at the Academy that had sweets in jars. You could get a quarter pound of this or that. But the Spar shop was really, quite modern!

MD. Like a little mini supermarket.

LP. There was a little shop in Dundrennan as well and a little old lady who ran it, she used to have sweets in jars. But the Spar shop here was quite go ahead, quite with it.

MD. Were there just the two of them working in it?

LP. Well, they employed local people as well, but the house was just attached to the shop or the shop was attached to the house, rather. They had a bell in the shop and just whenever the bell went, they went out. But they worked really hard.

MD. Would you walk from the farm into the village?

LP. If I had to but I would bike. I had a bike, and we cycled around far more than my kids did and the roads were a lot quieter. I can remember as a wee thing being able to go across the road and up to Little Forrest, which is the cottage across from the farm. We used to spend a lot of our time up there with Joe Caldow's mother, Jean who used to look after Ross and I quite a lot, and we were allowed to just go across the main road ourselves, 'Just mind the road', you know I don't even remember saying where we were going a lot of the time. But I think a lot of parents probably did what I did with mine, probably just watching out of the kitchen window to make sure we were across safely, probably with their hearts in their mouths.

JF. It was much quieter then.

LP. And no mobile phones

JF. You didn't worry about it then. I used to just go of all day on a bike.

LP. I used to go off on my horse when I was a teenager and my dad used to say to me, If your going off on the horse just tell me what direction you're going in and if you don't come back, I'll know what direction to start looking.

JF. That was much more sensible!

MD. Did you ride on our own?

LP. There was quite a crowd of us actually, there was quite a posse of us in the village when we were in our early teens and we used to do some wild things.



**DIANA BRYDSON AND LEE 1970s**

MD. Would you wear hats?

LP. I did wear a hat although usually when I fell off the hat came off first. My dad used to say, if you fall off that bloody horse one more time, I'm selling it. So, I used to come in (after a fall) saying, I'm just going for a bath!

MD. What was your horses name?

LP. He was called Chisholm, Mr Chisholm. He was called that when I got him. There had been a film, a western, called Mr Chisholm and there was a riding school at Tongue of Bombie just on the way to Kirkcudbright, on the back road and we used to go there. There was a woman there called Jenny Scott who ran a riding school. She was completely bonkers and used to have us doing some really mad things on horseback. I got the horse from her, and she always named her horses after pop groups and film stars (the one in the photo was on loan and called Penny Lane)

MD. And was he your responsibility?

LP. Yes, he was my responsibility.

MD. Did your brother have a horse?

LP. No, he was never into horses. And I didn't let my children have horses either. I decided it was too much expense and hard work. I decided early on that I was just going to say no to that one. Also, if you're the only person with a horse in the area then all the other kids come round wanting a shot and it's a bit of a responsibility. My dad didn't really have much time for horses but because all my mates had horses, I had to have one.

LP. Any stories about your schoolteachers?

LP. I'll have to be careful, some of them are still alive! Mrs Halliday, who was the wee room teacher when I was there, primary one, two and three, she was doing teacher training at Palnackie school when my dad was there. The story we would always tell about her as that she would read us stories, and she would be sitting with her legs akimbo, and she had big bloomers, and we could all see her bloomers under the desk. She was Jim Halliday's mother, Jim and Moira Halliday, they lived down The Shore Road, they, left quite a long time ago. Stories about teachers, goodness! Probably lots of them, yes!

**45:28**

MD. Did they throw the rubber at you?

LP. There was one at the Academy used to throw a black board duster. He always said that he deliberately missed but . . . bits of chalk sometimes. He was actually a very popular teacher. The ones who just laid down the law when you first arrived and who were a bit scary and we didn't like very much, we actually got on fine with them because you knew where you stood. 'Don't mess with me!' Whereas the ones who tried to be pally with you and all lovey dovey at the start were always a pain in the neck. We had one French teacher, and she was called Mrs Rattray. In the 70s when I was at Kirkcudbright, she wore platform shoes like the teenagers and she used to tint her hair, you know the sort of blue rinse thing that pensioners did, so you had this odd combination. She was a very petite woman, but she had this blue rinse perm and the platform soles. I don't know if you remember Gary Glitter. Well, she was chatting to us one day and she was saying, I know some of you children give us nick names and someone said, Oh Ralph has nicknames for all the teachers. So, she said, what do you call me then and he said, Gary Glitter. She was sorry she'd asked. There were some quite cruel nick names actually. There was one teacher called Penguin because of the way she walked. She was our form teacher, and we came into the form class one day and there was this beautiful penguin drawn on the blackboard, it was fabulous, and she went, Oh! Isn't that nice, someone must be called Penguin. I'm sure she knew. I got on fine at secondary school, but I was quite glad to leave.

MD. Did you have school dinners?

LP. I loved school dinners. Well, the primary school dinners, you didn't get a choice. We used to have servers. At each table, the senior pupils would be the servers who would go to the hatch, bring the food to the tables and serve it up to the rest from the tray. I always liked school dinner apart from liver. One day a week you had liver and I never liked that, but I always loved the puddings. At the academy we used to get things like spam fritters, I just loved it! I loved all the grease and stodge.

Nobody else seemed to like it but I absolutely loved it. Probably because my mother was a bit of a foodie and she would never have served up something like spam fritters, that would have been beneath her!

MD. If things had gone soft and soggy, I wasn't so keen.

LP. My sister-in-law, Ross's partner, Steph was at school in Dumfries, and you would think in a town school they would have their own kitchen but for some reason their dinners got brought in from somewhere else. She normally went home for dinner but if she had to stay, she hated it because she said it was always cold and she said she could remember sitting over congealed mince, having to eat it and crying because it was so horrible.

JF. Were Fridays fish in your days?

LP. I don't think so, we did eat fish quite a lot, but I don't remember it much at school. There probably was a pattern to it but I wasn't paying enough attention, because I didn't know I was going to be interviewed 50 years later. I should have been taking notes! Of course, there's much more choice now.

**49:58**

MD. Had the wee bottles of milk finished?

LP. They were still going when I was at primary school, in the wee room, yes, we used to get milk still. It stopped when I was there.

MD. Did you enjoy the school milk because it sometimes got warm sitting by the radiators.

LP. The thing I remember more was it got frozen and one of the big boys said, I'll defrost it for you, and he defrosted it by putting hot water in it and of course it tasted absolutely horrible. They were nice little rinky dinky bottles. I remember it being delivered. And the scraps from the kitchen were put in a bucket out the back and the woman who lived in The Roadman's House, where John Hutchison is now, she used to have hens, and she would go down to the school every afternoon and pick up the bucket of scraps for her hens. You wouldn't be allowed to do that now.

MD. Yes, I remember, the blancmange would all be in with the gravy, and they said it was going to the pigs.

LP. Not a very healthy diet for pigs necessarily, sponge and custard. It was all quite different. As I said the school was a quieter place then, the school cook, the two teachers and that was it. There was a visiting music teacher every week. Just singing. And there was a violin teacher who came as well for those who wanted to play the violin, but that stopped when I was there. A PE teacher I think usually came and a speech therapist for some of the children who needed speech therapy.

JF. It seems to have been much more common in those days.

LP. There were two or three kids who saw the speech therapist. And that was about it.

MD. Do you remember having the measles?

LP. Yes, I do remember having all of those.

MD. Do you remember the treatments your Mum or Granny might have used?

LP. My mother was a bit of a nature cure person, and she used to do things like cold compresses which was a cold towel, a wet towel, put around your middle and then wrapped round with a dry towel and it was supposed to do, . . . I don't know what it was supposed to do. I've never heard of them before or since, but she was really into cold compresses.

MD. My granny was into hot compresses on your chest with lots of Vick.

LP. Yes, but basically, we went to bed. But I didn't realise until I had children myself what a serious disease measles can be, because it was just run of the mill for us then. Everybody got measles, everyone got chicken pox, everybody got mumps.

MD. Would people put children together deliberately so that they could get it all over with.

LP. I don't remember that happening. I do remember having those things, but I don't remember what it was like or how ill I felt.

MD. Were you dosed up with anything like syrup of figs, Junior Aspirin?

LP. No, my mother didn't give us anything. No pain killers or anything like that. We didn't have any pain killers in the house. She was a heavy drinker, and she smoked 20 Senior Service cigarettes a day, but we weren't allowed any drugs! I remember when I was at university, having an essay to write and having a headache and I was really struggling with it, and taking some Anadin or something and then going, Oh! It works! For the first time, in my early 20s, taking a pain killer.

MD. Have you ever broken any limbs that might have needed anything like that.

LP. No, we weren't too accident prone, not too bad for that sort of thing. But the sort of nature cure thing that my mother was into in the 70s, which is maybe more fashionable now, it was about eating properly, eating natural foods and lots of salad stuff, lots of vegetables, lots of raw food. She was into all that stuff. Brown sugar because she said white sugar was poison and she didn't like white bread either or white flour. She was spot on really, but we thought she was really weird! Ross would say, Why I can't we have white sugar? Why can't you be like a normal mum?

**54:54**

MD. Your friends would be having a plain loaf and things.

LP. Yes, a plain loaf. When we stayed with the Caldows, with Jean who I was talking about earlier, you know, they would have these teas at the weekend for all the family, and it would all be cheese and ham sandwiches and jam sandwiches followed by cakes. We loved that! We didn't get all of that at home. Mum never kept biscuits or crisps or sweets in the house. She had a little jar of pan drops as a treat.

JF. Did you take any holidays from the farm?

LP. Yes, we did. My dad was very good at taking holidays. We had a Ford Freedom Dormobile camper van which we used to love going away in. We used to go to London once a year and go to The Planetarium and The Waxworks. My dad used to drive to London. It was only, I think, in the 70 when it started to get too busy that he decided we weren't doing that anymore. In those days he knew his way around London, and he could drive there and drive round London, it was a piece of cake. I think the last time we went we went on the train. And Mum and Dad used to leave us behind with the Caldows at Little Forest who were like a second family to us really, and they used to go abroad without us. They only took us abroad once, when I was ten, to Crete and I have very vivid memories of that, but they generally went away without us. Parents sort of didn't involve themselves so much. They were a bit more distant. They were older parents and also that generation of parents just didn't do so much. I had a friend once who was complaining bitterly about how little his parents did with him, and I said, that's just how it was. They were just muddling through and doing what all their friends did. They didn't take us to the cinema or do activities with us.

JF. This idea of 'quality time,' . . .

LP. Yes, we used to go for a wee drive. Dad used to like to go for a wee drive up to Rerrick Cemetery, I'm not joking! Because you got such a fabulous view from there and on a clear night he would say, let's go for a drive and see if we can see The Isle of Man. That was the highlight of our summer, to go to Rerrick Cemetery to see The Isle of Man! That's the kind of thing we used to do. We basically ran wild, we were quite feral, I think. I remember starting school and thinking, oh! The other kids in the village knew each other and we had lived half a mile out of the village but

somehow quite separately. I suppose having older parents, their friends had grown up children and so we didn't have that connection with other kids.

MD. Cousins, did you have cousins?

LP. I have hundreds of cousins! Not hundreds, no, that's an exaggeration!

MD. Were they the same age as you or older?

LP. My dad's sisters and brother all married and had children in their 20s. He waited till he was in his 40s. So, they were a whole generation away. I've got something like nineteen cousins just on my dad's side and, I think fourteen on my mum's side and some of them are more my age, but they were all scattered around England and farther away mostly. And my mum's family also all fell out with one another, so we didn't have contact with a lot of them. So, yes, I have something like thirty cousins but only a handful of them that I know well. I think I've met most of them once. A big family but not a big family really, none of them nearby. Despite my dad's family being brought up here they all scattered

MD. Is there anything you were burning to say that you had in your mind?

**59:38**

LP. Not really. The things I've thought about over the last week like the village shop. Everything changes. It's quite a thriving little village, Auchencairn and it does attract people. People come and go but it changes through the generations as well. That's what I always say to people when they talk about incomers you know, 'these bloody incomers', but what do you have to do to belong here? Do you have to have two generations of your family in the graveyard? But it's not just incomers. The people who complain about incomers also complain about the youngsters because it's the next generation and it changes with the next generation. We all get nostalgic for things that have gone but actually the next generation don't give a damn because they just grew up with what's here. They'll mourn for something else. I look back to the time we used to have the scramble at Halloween. We got let out of the school a bit early and the shops and the post office and the garage would all throw sweets and pennies out on the street. So, we'd be let out of school, the little ones would be let out first and we'd go harem scarem down Main Street. I used to get all excited, but it would scare the living daylight out of me because I was never a sprinter, and I was always terrified I was going to fall or get knocked over. But they would wait till we got down and the first shop would be the one in the square, where Jane Smith is now and they would throw the sweets and pennies out and then we would go on down to the Post Office which is Rose Bank, it's not a post office anymore. And then you would go on down, probably to the garage and then the shop at the bottom, The Spar shop. And it was mental because it was right down the middle of the street, and it was stopped not long after Callum (Lee's son, born 1988) because it just wasn't safe anymore. There were fewer and fewer places in the village that were willing to do it and I think the last place to do it was the Post Office which for a while was right on the corner opposite the church

and Jenny (Heron) who had the Post Office there said, I'm just not doing it, I can't. It was just too hairy!

MD. That's where the letter box is now isn't it?

1:01:57

LP. The letter box was always there. The Post Office has moved around over the years, sometimes in people's front rooms because it used to be in Rose Bank which is the big yellow brick building. The one on the left opposite the pub just before you go up round the corner.

MD. My knowledge of the word 'scramble' as a child was at weddings. Were there weddings in the church here and you'd hear about it and run in for the scramble.

LP. I don't remember doing it in the village. I remember going to weddings. Joe and Sandra Caldwell, they got married at Crossmichael Church and that was the first wedding I ever went to, and I remember that one because I got my finger stomped on and ended up with a big black fingernail which was very painful. Yes, that was wedding scrambles.

MD. On Saturday's we'd go from church to church, I was brought up in Glasgow, and you'd go from church to church and fill your pockets with pennies and ha'pennies at the scramble and it was lethal really.

LP. Yes, I was always too scared. I think the kids that were bold, . . . I was always too feart! Guising as well, we used to go guising, that's still going strong.

MD. Guising really seemed to be harmless fun in those days whereas now it's become a whole industry hasn't it with bought costumes. You had to improvise, you know, we went as ghosts, pillar boxes, I remember going as a television set in a cardboard box. My dad worked in Scottish telly, so he fixed a plug and a wire to the back of a cardboard box, all sorts of things and we gaily went round the neighbours, and you had to do your party piece. You didn't do nothing, you had to do a wee dance, you had to do something' and you got your sweeties and maybe an apple or an orange and maybe a thrupenny bit or something.

LP. We always knew the houses to go to.

MD. The good ones who had good tablet!

LP. They still do that.

MD. I think that's great that they still do that in Scotland.

JF. It turns into begging sometimes.

MD. I saw that down south. The kids were just being, . . . and you could get something through your window if you didn't open your door!

LP. Here it was always one of the high lights of the year.

MD. It led onto bonfire night because you spent your money on sparklers. That's what you did really.

**1:05:00**

LP. We used to have our own bonfire. We had a few fireworks and a bonfire. It was in the 1970s I think the one in the village started. It's probably not been every single year, but it's been really good in recent years. Everybody comes down for the bonfire, coming from all over the place because a lot of places have stopped doing them. It's quite a job setting up a fireworks display.

JF. Do you think many of the farming families around here have been in the area as long as yours?

LP. I think there have been quite a few. The Lindsays. Willie's dad (Alec Lindsay) said they came down to Culnaightrie at about the same time that my grandparents came to Chapelcroft. The Cannons have been here for a long, long, time and the Brydsons. Robert Brydson, Jose's father-in-law was the butcher in the village. There are old photographs.

JF. Mary (Brydson, married to Ian Brydson of Drungans) has told me stories.

MD. The Barbour of Stockmoss?

LP. Yes, Robert and Beryl. Well, there's a family connection there because Robert's father, Adam, had a brother called Richie who was married to my dad's sister, so I share a set of cousins with Robert. The ones who went to Kenya and are now all over the world. So, you have to watch what you say about people because we're all inter married!

LP. What about Orroland farm and Barlocco, have you seen changes.

LP. I'm not really all that familiar with Orroland and Barlocco actually.

MD. They don't farm animals as such. There's pheasants.

JF. I think they used to have but it's all let now.

LP. Well, it has changed I suppose. A lot of the smaller farms have been rented out. We rent Richardcain now. It's not farmed as a farm in its own right anymore. There's a lot of that which is kind of sad in a way because farms can end up looking a little bit neglected, not much going on and the buildings get a bit decrepit.

MD. Outbuildings especially.

LP. There are a lot of much bigger farms.

JF. That's been the main trend hasn't it, amalgamation

LP. And less diversity.

JF. So, your responsibility is to calves mainly, is it?

LP. Yes, but my son is taking over the farm. Callum the piano teacher. He's taking over the dairy business. Ross and I will keep the land. He wants to manage the farm. He can milk and he can feed calves, but he said, If I can make good money teaching piano, I'm not going to spend all my time feeding calves and things. He'll employ other people. We have good staff there already, but he'll have to decide if he needs other people as I gradually step back.

JF. More time for botany!

LP. Yes, definitely. I keep up my botany skills, just. I try every year not to let them go backwards.

MD. Where do you go or are you self-studying.

LP. Well, self-studying to start with and then started to go on any day trips, fieldtrips I could find, just to see that I was getting it right. And then David Hawker from Gatehouse started doing regular summer trips in Kirkcudbrightshire so I go to as many of those as I can. And Janet goes to them too sometimes. It's a nice hobby to have around here. There's quite a variety of habitats, Galloway has such a lot of variety.

JF. Because you've been organic for a while now (at Torr).

LP. The hill ground is nice now yes

JF. You'll keep your eye on that? You won't let Callum . . .

LP. No, he's been well drilled, brainwashed! He'll keep things the way I want them!

JF. You're still there, you can keep an eye on it, that's good.

**1:09:55**

LP. Callum's quite keen on, . . . He doesn't rely on the farm. He makes a living at his music, and his wife teaches too so he would quite like to make things a little bit smaller. He'd like to do less but really well because you can be organic and just tick all the boxes, if you like. Do it all so that you can pass the Soil Association thing, but he's quite interested in really going for the animal welfare and the health and, I don't know, that's just his thing. And there are bits of the farm, the hill down by me (Red Haven) and where we went to look at sedges that day (Bankend Moor) We'd really like to get cattle off there in the winter because it makes such a mess now. He said, I'd really like to manage these bits for people and wildlife. That's my boy! I think just to make it a bit more accessible to people. The footpath that goes down there to the Red Haven, when the cattle are down there and there have only been 20 cattle down there this winter, but it's been so wet, and

they've made such a mess again. It used to be you could winter cattle down there and it would be fine, but you have to rethink things, whether it's because of economic conditions or because of the weather and depending on what people want.

MD. I was just thinking about the tar pot because it's just something that I've seen and thought it was a wonderful piece of history, an engraved stone.

LP. The tar pot, well I was approached by Anna Johnstone from the (Regional) council. There was money available for community things or countryside things and Roy Wilson had wanted to put an interpretation board down there at Torr Point to say what the tar pot was and I'm not all that keen on interpretation boards. You can end up with them all over the place and eventually they fall to bits. Anna said what about putting something on a stone because somebody else had done this and there was a company in Wigtownshire that did engraving. So, I went down onto the shore beside the tar pot and found a stone that I thought was not too big and not too small, a nice flat surface, not too heavy because I had to carry it from there up to the Land rover. Just a short distance but it was heavy all the same. Then we had to decide what to put on it because we wanted something on it about the tar pot and what it was. So, I talked to Robert Caldow and asked him about it, and he said it was from the days before nylon(fishing) nets. You can still see where the stake nets were. In my childhood somebody still fished those nets, but they've been abandoned for quite a while now. Before nylon nets they had rope nets, and they had to preserve them with something. They put the fire underneath, melted the tar or heated it up and then pull the nets through. They would have them in a big line and pull them through and then they would hang them up along the shore. And Robert said that when they were working with the nets you could smell it in Auchencairn. It was quite a stink. And he said that there was an old bread van down there that they would use to sit and have a cup of tea in and store the nets in it over winter. You think it's all peaceful and quiet and unspoilt down there, but I bet it was really quite industrial, you know, there would be stuff going on, old bread vans, probably all sorts of rubbish lying about, probably a bit of a mess. But it would be a busy place and probably old nets lying about.

JF. And boats coming in?

LP. I don't know how easy it would be to get boats in there because it's very shallow. There's an old jetty of some sort across at Girvellan on the next little point just below Orchardton when you go across Orchardton Bay there's a little jetty over there. They probably did but they were probably tiny little boats. But yes, you think it's unspoilt but probably it was a really busy little place, people coming and going all over the place.

MD. As was Palnackie harbour I'm sure as well.

LP. Someone I was talking to the other day said bus loads used to come out from the town to go to The Red Haven. I presume the busses didn't come right down because there was only a track along the side of the field, but they would get dropped off at the end of the road, so absolutely jumping!

**1:15:06**

JF. Sounds like the bay was once more sand whereas now it's mud.

LP. I think it changes

JF. The beach near where I grew up was sand and then became boulders. You read about people coming on holiday here and talking about the huge expanse of sand.

LP. And horse races. Back in the 1800s I think they used to have horse races on the sands.

JF. The coast keeps changing doesn't it.

MD. Is the land being eroded

LP. I think the Solway is silting up gradually. I remember Daphne Brooke who was a local historian talking about that, that the Solway at one time was a bit deeper.

MD. Certainly you can see sand banks now.

LP. And if you get big storms, I suppose it would wash away but Auchencairn Bay is quite sheltered. If you go along to Caerlaverock, over thirty years the merse will build up and then they'll get a big storm and acres of it are gone at once, whereas here it's not quite as dynamic as that because it's very sheltered. The nets used to be fished by Eddy Parker, Irene Parker's husband.

MD. On shore Road.

LP. Well, the ones on Shore Road I think are still fished, I don't know if Eddy's son Norman still fishes them or if it's somebody else.

MD. I saw a man there and he had about six blue crates, so he was doing something.

LP. Well, Eddy used to fish there, and he used to put in the ones at ours as well and I think dad used to supply him with trees for the stakes when he needed to replace them every now and again and we used to get a salmon every year as rent for the nets.

JF. I didn't think nets were allowed any more anyway

LP. I think they're gradually trying to get rid of them. I think any that were on Crown land were removed but we had the rights to these ones here.

JF. Phoebe's Will (Marshal) put's lobster pots out

LP. Will does all sorts of things. If ever you hear a gun going off it's usually Will. Shooting again is something that people don't seem to do any more. The farm staff used to go out with their guns every now and again and shoot pheasants and rabbits and they just don't do it anymore.

JF. It was food wasn't it.

LP. Well, it was. The farm staff certainly used to eat rabbit and hare.

MD. I still would and do. I will pick up a pheasant. It has been known!

LP. A bit of roadkill.

JF. I had a beautiful rabbit wellington up at that hotel in Thornhill. I don't know why people won't eat rabbit

LP. It's like a lot of wild food it's sometimes quite gamey, like pheasant can sometimes be quite strongly flavoured.

JF. We've just got used to getting it all clean in the supermarkets.

LP. We've got away from all that.

JF. Blood and gore.

MD. It's so easy just to ...

LP. ...to skin?

MD. You just cut the head and pull it backwards to the legs.

JF. Does Callum shoot?

LP. No.

JF. He never wanted to.

LP. Callum's just not that way inclined.

JF. One of our children did but the rule was if you shoot something you've got to eat it.

LP. Yes. I don't care much for these mass pheasant shoots where they can't get rid of them.

MD. They can't.

JF. Yes, we came in for about eleven brace. Nobody else would take them!

MD. Ann Goddard brings them regularly to the church saying *please take them* and she'll have plucked them and done them, oven ready for people, and they still won't go.

LP. Really! I would take them if they were oven ready!

MD. Next winter when she's offering them again, I'll get you some. You've got to do something for the dyke! (Moirra had recently made a hole in a dyke at Torr with her car)

JF. There you are! You can supply game.

MD. Rod was doing the rabbits on the grass. The summer before last particularly, the rabbits were really bad. I never thought I'd see Rod do it, but he did. I didn't actually eat those.

**1:20:07**

LP. We're definitely getting fussier about our food although it's getting a bit more fashionable again.

JF. If a television chef uses it.

MD. Foraging too.

JD. What do you think ladies? (winding up)

LP. Oh, we didn't do war time experiences!