

**MANX HERITAGE FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPT**

‘TIME TO REMEMBER’

Interviewee(s): Mrs Jennifer Leece

Date of birth: 28th March 1934

Place of birth: Onchan, Isle of Man

Interviewer(s): Elizabeth Ardern-Corris

Recorded by: Elizabeth Ardern-Corris

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Topic(s): Early school days
Discipline
Attending Edge Hill College
Working at Dhoor School
Meeting husband
Playing outside as child
WWII and Prisoners of War
White City [Amusement Park]
Sunday School and Church
Onchan Village and shops
Parents and Blakemore’s Music Shop
Village policing
Working for Isle of Man Newspapers
The Leece Museum

Jennifer Leece - Mrs L
Elizabeth Ardern-Corris - EA-C

EA-C I'm Elizabeth Arden Corris, it's the 16th February 2012. I'm at the home of Mrs Jennifer Leece in Peel. Mrs Leece, can you tell me your date of birth and where and when you were born, please.

Mrs L Born in Onchan, 28th of the third, '34.

EA-C Can you tell me your earliest memories of school – what school did you go to?

Mrs L St Frances High School, Derby Road. Yes, I can remember – when you think of it, it was very unsuitable because there were two steps up to the kindergarten room, which was ridiculous, really. (*laughter*) It was just a house, really. I didn't mind it in the infant stage, but I didn't like it very much later on – I'd have liked to have moved on.

EA-C Whereabouts was St Frances School?

Mrs L Top of Derby Road, opposite the ... now the Red Cross – I don't know. But it was just houses, you know, it was only a collection of houses.

EA-C And who was in charge of the school?

Mrs L Two terrible women, (*laughter*) Miss Chapel and Miss Standsfield – quite barmy – quite barmy, I'm afraid (*laughter*) – dreadful – my education was just terrible!

EA-C And how long did you stay at St Francis?

Mrs L Until I was eighteen, from the age of five – only rescued by one or two exceptional teachers, one in particular, Miss Hay. She was responsible for almost everything I can do (*laughter*) – the rest is pretty awful!

EA-C And do you know how many pupils would have attended?

Mrs L Oh gosh, it's hard ... do you know, I ... it was only a small school, it was a boarding ... some boarded, and they actually slept, I think, over ... the house across the road belonged to Dr De Morgant [sp ???] – he had a surgery there, but they seemed to use that, if I remember rightly – don't know if they slept there or not, don't know, but I never boarded. Goodness, how many would there

be ... it's hard to remember really ... I suppose there'd be perhaps sixty – seventy – only a very small place.

EA-C And have you any idea why your parents chose to send there?

Mrs L Oh ... because my mother was silly! (*laughter*) She wanted me to learn to speak nicely. And then I was supposed to transfer to the Girls High School when I was eight. Sadly, by the time I was eight, the junior section had been abolished and I was probably far too far behind with things to have got there anyway, 'cos it wasn't a terribly good education at that point. It was a bit of a disaster, my early education. I made it all up when I went to college. (*laughter*)

EA-C Do you ever remember missing any schooling through illness?

Mrs L Umm ... not a lot – got the usual childish things, but no long periods of missing things.

EA-C And how would you have got to school?

Mrs L Oh, I had to ... I lived at the top of Summerhill – it was quite a trek, really, walked down Summerhill, caught the bus along the promenade, got off at Broadway and then walked up to school. And, believe it or not, I went home for lunch. So it was quite a ... I don't know – it's ridiculous when I think about it now, it was just ridiculous – totally ridiculous. Up that hill (*laughter*) – kept fit though!

EA-C Did you wear a school uniform?

Mrs L Yes. It was known as the red school; and it was grey and red, the coats were grey and it was my worse colour, it was horrible, (*laughter*) I looked absolutely like death in it!

EA-C And would you have got into trouble if you hadn't worn your full uniform?

Mrs L Oh yes, yes, we would have got into trouble, yes – we little ladies. (*laughter*)

EA-C And what was discipline like?

Mrs L Umm ... pretty firm, the kindergarten was nice, I have memories of the kindergarten which was rather nice. But after that, I didn't like it a bit – I didn't enjoy it at all. No, they were quite barmy, the Heads, they really were. Good job they've passed on (*laughter*) years ago.

EA-C Were you always expected to do well at school?

Mrs L By whom?

EA-C By your parents.

Mrs L Yes, I suppose I was. My mother in particular – dad wasn't so ... I won't say he wasn't interested, but he wasn't so sharp keen. My mother was the keen one, yes. Oh yes, I was expected to do well. I was expected to take advantage of all the things that she could have done and didn't have the opportunity to do, yes, which is really why I became a teacher.

EA-C Did you have any siblings?

Mrs L Adopted brother. He ... in the beginning of the war, they brought over children from Liverpool, evacuees, and ours never went back. He was in a terrible state when he arrived with everything possible wrong with him; rickets, malnutrition, and sores all over his body and his head, and after we'd cleaned him up and got him healthy we were able to adopt him eventually and he became a fine young man now – well, he's in Australia now, he's not a young man anymore, but ...

EA-C And did he attend St Frances School?

Mrs L No, no, he went to Onchan School. Mother had got a bit of sense by then, (*laughter*) and he absolutely flourished at Onchan School – it was a wonderful school. Very well-known head, R J Wilkinson, who was there for many years, who was absolutely super, and he did a lot for Bruce.

EA-C Are you still in touch with any of your school friends from those days?

Mrs L Yes, funnily enough that you should ask me that 'cos a fortnight ago we had a tea-party down at *The Harbour Lights*, and there was three of us sitting together, and we'd all been in the Infants together, (*laughter*) we've all

survived, surprisingly enough! There was Pam Brown and Erica Costain, and there we all were, sitting there – a fortnight ago, it was quite amazing.

EA-C And what kind of exams would you have sat?

Mrs L Well, do you mean finally? It was Oxford – the Oxford School Certificate – I didn't take Higher – I don't know why ... oh yes, I do know why, because when I decided – I'm really quite sore about this – when I was in the sixth form and I decided that I was going to be an infant teacher, they used to shove me up to work in the kindergarten, and gave all the tuition to the year below, who were suppose to be having marvellous academic careers – neither of them did a thing with it, so I feel quite bitter about that. (*laughter*) But I made up for it when I went to college.

EA-C And what college did you attend?

Mrs L Edge Hill, and I absolutely adored it. Such a contrast from school (*laughter*) – loved every minute of it!

EA-C And how long was your training?

Mrs L Two years – could have done with three – I would have liked three, I would have been quite happy to have done three, but they were very, very, very happy years.

EA-C And then you would have come back to the Isle of Man?

Mrs L Not straight away. You were not, at that time, allowed to, because of ... something to do with the English authorities paying grants, and you had to work it off, so I had to ... worked away for six years. And I would have stayed away, only my mother wasn't very well and she wanted me to come home, but err ... I liked it, I liked working away.

EA-C And when you did come back to the Isle of Man, did you find a job?

Mrs L Yes, I went out to the wilds, after having worked in a big school, you know, it was a big staff, and oh, gosh, it was lonely. I went out to a two-teacher school at the Dhoor – do you know where the Dhoor is? Yes, all that way from Onchan –

I had to start off at about twenty past seven in the morning, two buses, (*laughter*) – it was awful! So, worked for a Peel man, who actually was a friend of my husband – didn't have a husband then – Norman Quine. And he was very nice, we got on very well, fortunately, you'd have to, wouldn't you, really. I had a fire – the fire was in my classroom so everybody gathered there. (*laughter*) I had to start the cocoa at lunchtime, it was absolutely primitive, having come from an English school, you know, a big one, it was ... gosh, it was a culture shock, an absolute culture shock. And nobody was on playground duty, you had to ... 'Doesn't anybody do playground duty?' 'No, no, they'll come and tell us if anything's wrong.' (*laughter*) It was astonishing – it was quite a learning curve. I'd come from a class of 48 infants, which I thought was hard work, but it was nothing like as hard work as having a class ranging from under five to eight, and you had to sort them all – I mean, you were telling a story to the little ones and the big ones were fed-up, or you were telling a story to the big one. It was very hard work – much, much, much harder work, although we only had about twenty ... or twenty something in the class, it was much, much harder work than having forty of the same age – it was tough.

EA-C And how long were you out there?

Mrs L How long was I out there? Oh, about eighteen months, I think, and then I came back to umm ... where did I go then? Went to Willaston, which was nice, I liked Willaston. And then I was redundant at Willaston – they had too many teachers, so I ended up at Murray's Road, which I didn't like very much – an awful old school building, so from there I retired, (*laughter*) worked at my own family.

EA-C I believe your husband was a teacher.

Mrs L Yes, he was Head of ... well, eventually, he wasn't Head when I met him, he became Head of Demesne Road. What is it now? Is it a mixed school? It was a boys only then. I think it's mixed now, isn't it, yes. He was Deputy Head and then became Head, and then he got Peel.

EA-C That would be the reason why you moved to Peel

Mrs L I thought it was the end of the earth! (*laughter*) I wanted him to get the Ramsey one [job], but I'm glad he didn't. I eventually loved Peel – wouldn't move me now.

EA-C Well, let me just take you back to your early childhood, growing up in Onchan.

Mrs L Hmm.

EA-C Did you every play around Onchan Pleasure Park – was that in existence then?

Mrs L No, it was just fields. We lived in Summerhill Road and the back of it went onto the Onchan ... it was just fields, played in the fields, yes, and then gradually it began to be developed, there were motorcycle events around the fields and that sort of developed into the proper park, which it ... err ... I'd sort of gone by then, by the time it was really sophisticated.

EA-C Where else would you have played?

Mrs L Umm ... well, across the road from us there was ... well, not dead opposite, just down the road there was a big house with a long drive and loads of trees. Playing in there was great, you know, not getting caught, (*laughter*) going over the wall and playing there. Yea, I remember ripping my skirt doing that; my mother being terribly cross because it was war-time. (*laughter*) That was the only skirt she'd [unclear] once, and I got a great big jagged tear in my skirt going over the wall. (*laughter*)

EA-C Do you think the war had a big impact on your childhood?

Mrs L Not really, no – terribly sheltered from it over here, terribly sheltered. I mean, we didn't really do without anything. I can remember my mother making up a parcel for her sister-in-law in Cheshire, and sending an egg – you know, (*laughter*) – a great treasure, you know, was an egg for Pat's tea! So I didn't really seem to have much ... no. We were very, very sheltered really. The only thing I remember are the ... going to school on the bus, used to go down Summerhill and catch the bus along to Broadway, and the internees were ... mainly Italians I think they were, and they used to get on the bus and they were going off to work, 'cos they were in all the boarding houses on the – or guest houses, sorry, they call themselves, don't they – were all wired off, you know, like camps for ... and they hadn't done anything, they just happened to be unfortunately living in England, they weren't war criminals or anything. Occasionally you'd see one with a ... something on the arm saying, 'Prisoner of

War,' but on the whole, they were just people who were unfortunate enough to be caught living in the wrong place, and they were lovely people.

EA-C Were people frightened of them, or did they interact with them?

Mrs L I don't think so, I don't think so. They were all ... you know, you know, they used to get on – must have been going off to work somewhere, 'cos they used to get on the bus. And then on the promenade, going along on the shore, if the tide was out, there would be ... sailors, practising signalling, you know, in pairs – remember that very clearly, if the tide was out.

EA-C Did you ever go up to the *White City*?

Mrs L Oh yes, yes definitely. We used to go, mainly I think after Sunday school picnics and things, we'd end up at the *White City*, yes, when we were older, when we were sort of teenage, you know.

EA-C Can you recollect all the different rides and stalls that were there? Can you take me through some of them?

Mrs L Well, there was a big dipper, which didn't interest me at all ... I can't remember much about the stalls; what I can remember most of all was that there was this little theatre and there was a hypnotist, so that was fascinating, used to like ... very fascinating, yes. (*laughter*) That was the big attraction of the *White City* ... what was his name? Boto something ... something posh and Italian, probably assumed! (*laughter*)

EA-C And what about Douglas promenade. Were you allowed down there on your own to play on the beach?

Mrs L Well, I don't remember ever playing on the beach – we were taken to the beaches as a child, you know, oh a lot, picnics and things, but I don't remember going down there on my own particularly.

EA-C And the electric tram terminus ...

Mrs L Yes.

EA-C ... is up near Port Jack – do you remember going on that?

Mrs L Oh yes, we ... we had all our Sunday school picnics going by electric tram because there weren't any – there wasn't any petrol for charas [charabancs] as we called them, so we all went off on the electric tram. Went to Ramsey for the day, and then I, of course, always had to be a nuisance, and the children were playing ... well, just in the Ramsey park while the adults were having their tea, and I was sitting on a see-saw with my young brother and he went to sort of ... he swayed, and I lent to catch him and I fell off, but unfortunately I punctured an artery, so by gum, that was a sensation, (*laughter*) my poor mother didn't get her tea that day! It just absolutely 'swoosh' you know, gave everybody a terrible fright – trust me!

EA-C And what happened?

Mrs L Well, they saved my life, obviously, I'm still here! (*laughter*) Somebody stopped it – somebody – I don't know, I suppose they must have sent for a doctor, I don't know, but err ... I can remember going home in somebody's car, but I was an awful nuisance – my poor mum. He shouldn't have lent over, (*laughter*) and I leant over to catch him.

EA-C Did you attend church in Onchan?

Mrs L Yes, we went to Onchan, from the age of about – didn't go as a small child – from the age of about ten, I think. I went to Sunday school and then onto church.

EA-C Can you remember who the vicar was then?

Mrs L Canon Duffield, yes, yes, that's right. He was ... he came, I think, when I was five, so I wasn't going to church before then, so he was our vicar all the way through – youth club and everything, you know, yea.

EA-C And your Sunday school teacher, can you remember them?

Mrs L Yes, indeed I can, Renee Roberts, she used to work in Quirk's cake shop in village, and she and Aggie, her sister – I can remember a sermon on gossip – I don't know which vicar it was – saying about all the gossip that went on in

shops in the village, and, 'I know about it,' and it was Quirk's he was getting at! (*laughter*) Renee was in the choir – but they were lovely, they were lovely people, anyway.

EA-C What was Onchan village like when you were young?

Mrs L It was a true village, you know, a village community, it was small ... I remember going home from midnight service ... I don't think they do this now, do they? I remember going home from a midnight service from a New Year's morning and seeing all the lights on in the bank, and my mother would say, 'Oh, there's poor Gordon trying to balance the books, he can't get to bed until it's all balanced, you know.' (*laughter*) This was in the small hours of the morning – that was a memory, I'm sure they don't do it now, but he was responsible – she was friendly with his wife, and he was responsible for the bank entirely and it had to be all done on New Year's Eve. It seems incredible now when you think of anybody working like that, absolutely incredible.

EA-C Well, can you remember some of the shops in the village?

Mrs L Yes. There was ... at the top of Summerhill – we lived down Summerhill Road – at the top of Summerhill there was Kelly the bakers and Minay's which was a little fruit and veg shop – very little shop run by a brother and a sister. Then above that was Kelly the bakers, and then what else was there? There was Quirk's along the line, there was ... and there was a fish shop ... there was a chemist – two chemists I think, yes, vaguely I can. Yes, a grocery – two or three grocery shops. There was Corlett's; there was Mills – Billy Mills – that was a big ... very long shop, and when I was actually living there with my first child, we had nice – well, my children – big notice in the window saying, 'Ladies, your prams and babies are welcome in this shop,' and you just used to push the pram in and he always gave them a biscuit. (*laughter*) Well, that was when they were ... that was more modern. But that's all gone, so I suppose the village community's gone in Onchan – not in Peel – still here in Peel.

EA-C Tell me a little bit about your parents – what were their names?

Mrs L Well, they were ... Blakemore's, my father was in partnership with his brother and sister in a music shop – Victoria Street – the only ... I don't know about the only music shop – certainly in Douglas, so they did all the umm ... they sold

pianos – dad was responsible for pianos – they sold records, they had a ... somebody demonstrating on the piano, you know, to attract the customers. They had all the music for the Guild; they were the only, I think ... I don't know whether there was anything anywhere else on the Island, but they were certainly the only one in Douglas with all the Guild music. As soon as the Guild syllabus was out, when it all arrived at the shop, it was run by my Auntie Sissy who was single, and my Uncle Neville who was married, they ran the ... and my father, they ran the shop. My dad was in charge of the gramophone department. He used to be in the cellar, but oh gosh, it was dreadful down there, it was – oh, it was horrible, it was smelly, and cold and eventually he moved upstairs.

EA-C And your mother – what was her name?

Mrs L Her name was Pearson, Florence Pearson. She was born in America – she wasn't [of] American parents, but they were in America, and then she came over when she was eleven, I think it was; where her great friend, Roma Moore, who had a hat ... she had a hat shop in ... she was very well-known in Douglas running a hat shop – used to correct her American spelling with great glee in class! (*laughter*) Auntie Ro was my Godmother – she's long gone. Christmas Day we always went round to dad's family, the Blakemore's in Park Avenue in Douglas. Yes, it was ... only on days like that, not sort of regularly.

EA-C Did you do anything special on Sundays?

Mrs L Well, not really, it was just church in the morning, or Sunday school church, and well, it was out in the garden if it was nice. Nothing – just a sort of holiday day.

EA-C Do you know where your parents met?

Mrs L Do you know, I don't, really. My mother did work in the shop, so maybe ... maybe that's where they met. She worked in Blakemore's. Possibly, I don't honestly know, really. I think it must have been there – I don't think it was any social thing.

EA-C Did your parents have any musical talent?

Mrs L Not really, strangely enough, no – being in the music shop, none of them did,

which was really odd. I mean, I got used to being interviewed for school, when I was interviewed for over here, you know, ‘Well, of course, we need hardly ask you – do you play the piano?’ And the answer always was, ‘Sufficiently for school purposes,’ which was finger, (*laughter*) – no, they didn’t – it was amazing, none of them had any musical skills, not really. I think Uncle Neville played the violins, but not in my time. Funny running a music shop and not being talented, wasn’t it? Dad certainly didn’t.

EA-C Can you remember any local characters around Onchan when you were growing up as a young child – people you might have been a little bit frightened of, or you weren’t quite sure about them?

Mrs L Don’t know. It was all very safe and secure childhood. I don’t really remember anybody that you were really frightened of. I don’t think so. I can’t remember anybody, no. Onchan was a very safe sort of little village. Quite different now, so anywhere it is now.

EA-C Would you have a policeman walking round?

Mrs L Oh yes, yes.

EA-C Can you remember who he was?

Mrs L There was a Sergeant Faragher, and there was a Sergeant Quane. And I suppose a bit later on my son-in-law was driving through Onchan too fast, to go to work, and Sergeant ... one of them stopped him, you see, and he made him go ... he said, ‘You’ve come through Governor’s Bridge,’ – this is how they policed it in those days. ‘You saw the sign there, didn’t you? Now just turn round and go back and look at it.’ And he said, ‘I can’t, I can’t I’m late for work!’ And he said, ‘Right,’ and he got his book out and he said, ‘right,’ and he turned his car round, and he had to go back to Governor’s Bridge, study the sign and then come back and report what it said! (*laughter*) And that’s old-time policing, and that’s not all that long ago, really. That was my son-in-law and he’s only in his forties now. That’s how they policed! (*laughter*) Going away to the big world was quite enough, was quite exciting ‘cos it was very sheltered, you know. I remember coming home with my mother once, on the boat, to the spectacle of my father down the harbour steps washing my brother’s face in the harbour. (*laughter*) He realised he hadn’t kept him clean – I can remember that vividly!

EA-C What's your best memory of childhood?

Mrs L Oh, God ... oh, I know – waking up and feeling the rustle at the bottom of the bed and saying, 'He's been!' on Christmas morning – 'He's been, he's been!' (*laughter*). I can remember – yes, that's the best – or one of them, anyway. Lots of happy memories.

EA-C And your worse memory?

Mrs L Oh dear, well I can remember ... my mother was handy with the slipper if you were ... and I got it for lying (*laughter*) – I can remember that – and it was such a silly thing. And she said, 'Oh, the sugar's been spilt in this cupboard – have you spilt that sugar?' and I said, 'no, no,' but I had – that's my worse memory, so it wasn't really very bad. (*laughter*)

EA-C Who do you think influenced you the most?

Mrs L My mother ... yea ... she was the strong character of the marriage.

EA-C Well, after you became a teacher, and you came back to the Isle of Man, you met your husband, you started to have your family; did you ever go back into teaching?

Mrs L Umm ... I did one or two supply, but I really had lost the ... I'd lost the interest in it and I didn't really want to do it anymore. I said my own children were enough, thank you very much, so I went into something else, I went into journalism, which is what I'd always wanted to do in the beginning you see.

EA-C And where did you work?

Mrs L I worked for Isle of Man Newspapers for ... oh, quite a long time. When did I go? Almost for about twenty years, I think. I was at Peel ... umm ... well, I got that through ... if I hadn't moved to Peel I wouldn't have got that. I was Peel correspondent for many years – about twenty years I think – the Western Reporter. I loved that. I'm nose-y, you see, so (*laughter*) that's all over – I still know where all the best teas are served! (*laughter*).

EA-C What was the most exciting thing you had to report on?

Mrs L Oh gosh! I think Mike Spring, who was paralysed from the waist down, paralysed in a car accident, who took himself off to the Azores and back, sailing solo, yes, that was marvellous, wonderful – lots of interesting things, and lots of things people did – I’m still waiting for somebody to come back and tell me how they got on going round the world! (*laughter*) They were packing their boat up, you know, and saying, ‘We’ll come back and tell you how ...’ but they never did, so you wonder.

EA-C Do you still keep a keen interest in the papers?

Mrs L Oh, I’m mad on papers, yes. I’d say crazy, yes, (*laughter*) very, very keen.

EA-C Do you use the Internet?

Mrs L No. I’m absolutely ... modern ... you know, I’ve just never ... I’ve got a computer that belongs to Isle of Man Newspapers, but err ... nothing – I can just type on, but I can’t ... as I say, it’s not mine. As I say, it’s up there, but I can’t do anything else on it. I’m not mechanical at all.

EA-C Tell me about your husband, where did you meet him?

Mrs L At a folk dance, somebody, while I was teaching at ... where was I teaching at? Anyway, somebody said come to a ... I wasn’t very keen on folk dancing, come to this folk dance party in Peel, and that’s where we met, so ...

EA-C And what was his name?

Mrs L Eddie – Eddie Leece.

EA-C Was it an instant attraction?

Mrs L I think so – of course he was a widower you see – I had a step-son to cope with, a daughter was married – he had two children. But yes, I think it was, yes.

EA-C And he eventually became the Head of Peel Clothworkers School?

Mrs L He did, yes.

EA-C How long was he there for?

Mrs L Ten years, yes, his last ten years of teaching were back ... back where he started. He went there as an infant himself, you know.

EA-C Tell me about the Leece Museum.

Mrs L Oh, what?

EA-C How did that happen and come about?

Mrs L I have to think how it started. I had ... there was this room next to ... you know where the Ward Library is? There was this rather dark and dingy room that Grant McPherson said Eddie could have, but it was pretty grim, it was dark, it was ... oh, it was damp, you know. Anyway, Frank Quayle – I don't know if you've ever heard of Frank Quayle? He was a very well-known Peel man and very interested in all Peel history, so Eddie and Frank ran the Leece Museum – the two of them – in this rather dingy building, and eventually it sort of grew and they ... when the Commissioners did up the place across the road – I can't think what it was before, it was in an awful state. I think it was just a meeting place for the Jehovah Witnesses or something. Anyway, they took it over and did the building up and the museum moved over there. He was very proud of his museum.

EA-C And is it to collect memorabilia from Peel in particular?

Mrs L Of Peel, that's the essential ... yes. And it certainly does, it rows gently home, photographs and ... you know, it's a great attraction I think – it's very informal.

EA-C And did you have any input into the museum?

Mrs L No, not really, it was Eddie. I ... last October, I ... what did I do? Oh, I unveiled a portrait of Eddie down there last October I think it was – or November, yes, which was rather nice.

EA-C What did your children think about your husband setting up the Leece Museum?

Mrs L Well, they were absolutely horrified! (*laughter*) ‘Our name’s all over the place – it’s all over the place, it’s so embarrassing!’ But now they’re very proud. Funny stories I have about my children and Peel. My ... it’s a sort of family saying, ‘I don’t think, dear, I leave it to the doctor.’ Because I had – my younger child is allergic to penicillin, and of course you’ve got to find out, haven’t you, sometime, and she came, swelled up to the most ghastly ... piggy eyes, couldn’t get her shoes on, so I carried her down to the surgery – I had to carry her, and said – plonked her down and said to the dreadful nurse we had there, who was really terrible, ‘Oh gosh, do you think it’s the penicillin?’ And she said, ‘I don’t think, dear, I leave it to the doctor.’ And so, (*laughter*) so, for years the kids used to say to me, ‘Mum, do you think ... – oh no, you don’t think, you leave it to the doctor!’ (*laughter*) And that’s always ... and we occasionally still say ...

EA-C You’ve lived in Peel since 1968 ...

Mrs L ’68, yes, yes.

EA-C ... would you ever go back to Onchan?

Mrs L No – not as it is now. It’s just like a suburb of anywhere, really, it’s so busy, so impersonal – I suppose there is a community life, but err ... it’s hard to see it from the outside.

EA-C Well, thank you very much, Mrs Leece, for sharing some of your memories with me today.

Mrs L It’s been a pleasure.

END OF INTERVIEW