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Maybe just want to say a bit about, tell me about your diaries generally sort of when did you start, how you started doing them and things...

How did I start doing the diaries? Well, we've always played bridge, a lot of bridge, or cards since when I worked in the bank and started meeting up the accountant I worked with and his wife, and we used to meet every Sunday night at alternate houses, and she kept a diary. And she had a big diary, she wrote a lot in hers every day - no family - she wrote a lot in hers and I thought you know this, I quite fancy that. And I think that's why I started keeping the diary. I would say I write more in it now than I did then. I just wrote in it then, most days that things were.. what I thought were important. Now, I just write, what I did... what I or we basically do everyday. Sort of things. And it is so handy. I've quite a good memory for thinking back about people and things. But it is very good to refer to. Both sons, when they played a lot of golf, played in a lot of competitions and we went a lot of places with them and kept a the scores and how they did in various competitions and then the next year I can look back and and say oh you were whatever. And that's played a large part of our lives, both sons, because it was every week eh, especially over the summer months.

This is when they were growing up? Uh huh, before they could drive, we took them to wherever it was and then, then we went themselves, and we went to watch, and we had people to stay and all that, and their mothers kept them if they were at Troon or some place, and we had housefuls when they came here. And I just kept a note of the scores and who won and various things. Now, over the years I can refer to things as well, we still play a lot of cards, and we have entertained a lot of people over the years, and we've had a lot of 's play cards, and it's shot about to have the meals and the cards. And when they say 'I can't remember who's turn it is' I can tell you, it's not mine! If I look back... well nowadays though, they keep on their phones... holiday dates, times, birthdays... but I have a birthday book, and address book. And I give my grandchildren these things but they do not read them, because I think it's good. But then the mobile phones, or whatever the posh ones, are have taken over a lot of that, haven't they?

There's a variety of apps for your phone to try and take a diary, but it's still a.. not many people do it. Or it's kind of automatic.

I know listening to [Aaron] it comes up on his phone, birthdays and dates and where he's going and what time and all that, whereas I would have to write that down. One's husband is not as methodical as I am, so he asks me and he thinks I have it all in here but I don't. So he'll say 'what time is it you're going to the dentist' or whatever and I says 'well, it's about 10, I'll need to leave'... and he doesn't even know what day it is.

So you said you kept diaries for 50 years now nearly?

Aye, well we got friendly with them when [Joe] and [Aaron] were wee so uh huh,

[Joe]'s coming up 50, so it will be about 50 years uh huh.

But you write them and you refer to them in a kind of daily way, but do you also look back at them? Oh uh uh, Oh uh uh. And I'll go back and look at whatever year and I'll try to remember when things... when we were on holiday at such and such a place and I can look back, uh huh, and find out.

Some practical things, so how often often and when do you write, and do you write before you go to bed and things like that, and how long are you writing for? I mean actually taking a diary, how do you actually take a diary?

How long? Oh I'm only minutes. I'll do it... maybe I'll miss a day. My diary sits on the kitchen table besides me, and this is last years, I still have... see how you have in your telephone all your phone numbers? Well I'm no very good on the phone I can use it but which page I'm on.. this is a new style of diaries. I've all my phone numbers in here, because.. it's easier, just to look it up. I keep everything in it, bridge numbers that you won't understand. [a town] bridge club... I keep all the numbers. Different hotels and the plumber and whatever else. I also have... in case I get knocked down.. they're all my bank accounts! (laughter).

(Description of different bank accounts and how the files have changed since she worked in bank).

And nowadays you don't get a bank book. Sometimes you don't even get a piece of paper to say you put money in something. And if you were knocked down on the street, my family certainly wouldn't know where to look for them... I think it's coming.. now that.. I don't know how you find out...

(Discussion of digital legacies).

So it's this really practical use, but at the same time your also using it to write bits and...

I keep everything in there... I keep all my passwords in there as well that you're not supposed to do! But when it started, all this with phones and cards, if that's the word, (discussion passwords). So against all rules, I keep the same password for everything, and I write it in there. I had a heart attack 10 years ago and I have it all written down, all the tablets that I take and whatever else.

So at the end of the day, you'll have a few minutes, what kind of things do you write about on like a daily basis?

Daily basis? Where I walk - because I'm supposed to try walk everyday so I'll write it down... Went to Edinburgh... [Bob] did the windows I started... because he sacked my window cleaner! (laughter). I don't think much son, you're welcome to read it if you can read it. But... I don't know what else to say.

Do you tend to just write or do you kind of take newspaper clippings or

pictures and things as well? Do you keep a lot of records or just your diary?

My diary... **That's everything for you?** Uh huh, uh huh.

How detailed... is it just a wee note? How much do you tend to write in it?

Aw nowadays I don't write... because I do write something in everyday. You know if I've missed a day I'll go back. And obviously I keep it in... but people do that on their phones now. But the old ones right... 198...9. Should have 83 somewhere. See I didn't keep anything like as much. They're all the golf things, I was at the bridge...

Is it quite practical information, or is it quite personal in a sense? Is it what you were think feeling?

I wouldnae bother if any body read. Nut there's nothing... **Is it just where you were and what you were doing or is it thoughts and feelings as well?**

When either of us have maybe been ill, [Bob]'s had a couple of blood clots I've written that in and I'm able to look back and say how long it was since he did this or since he did that. But nah.. look, it's all golf.

And how and when...what would cause you to look back at your diaries, what sort of occasions.

Ach, I'm in there a lot. Every now and.. just.. things. What could I say... how do I look back? Scores as I say, golf scores, bridge scores, somebody will maybe you ask something and you can't remember. Or... when did somebody die, and I'll think it's maybe so many years and I'll look at that. I

'Il tell you something now, a chap I used to work with, [Graham], I worked in [a town], in the [BANK]. And we were held-up, the gun-men. **Wow.** I was speaking about that last night as well. They jumped the counter and in those days you were always told to watch when it was nearly closing time because that's when - there's no nearly so many robberies now that there were - that was when people tended, because you were a bit, no on your guard because you were wanting home and you were doing this and that. And eh, that day as it happened was [Graham], the young chap and I, and the wee branch that it was, the managers room had a sliding door like that... and there was a teacher on the other side, and we didn't have bandit screens then. And it was nearly closing time, so you're kinda, as you're seen to people, trying to get tidied up, which you shouldn't do, when people are watching... but you get a bit... careless. (long story...) ... so robbers would know that you're getting it all sorted out.

And these two just ran in, jumped the counter, said 'on the floor'. I keep saying 'best offer I'd had all day'. But I thought it was a joke if I'm honest. And the teacher that's on the other side, she about passed out you know, ha! And the manager never came out his room. And there was all these things you could have pressed alarms, but you couldn't, they were watching you. And erm... anyway, they ran - do you know this, I can't even remember if they took something off [Graham], he was the young boy, anyway and he chased them.

And you shouldn't have done that, they could have - I don't know if they were guns but they were supposedly guns.

But anyway, I got a phone call from him - he left the bank and he joined the fire brigade and we send christmas cards. And I got a phone call I says, [Graham], I haven't seen you for years blah blah blah. They'd been speaking about it at the forestation, about the robbery. He said 'when was it?' I said 'when was it?'. Now we were going away the weekend, I said oh [Graham], I'll be able to look it back (laughter) but I said you'll need to give me the time. And I had to try and think, we were not long, up in this house because I had to phone home and say I'm no gonna be home, we've been held up with guns and whatever. And [Bob] came along, anyway, I did, I got it in my diary, well obviously I'd written that in, that we'd been held up. So I phoned him back and said when it was.

I mean that sort of detail about when precisely something happened, why's it important do you think to be able to say that sort of thing? When it was? Yeh, those sort of details? Otherwise you would just say...

It was about, well, they must have had a discussion at the fire brigade, something must have prompted him to speak about it and eh he said 'oh she'll know, she keeps a diary'. You know?

You get known for keeping a diary?

Well I don't know about known, but I think he would know that I kept a diary. Uh huh.

And when you said you were looking for it, you sort of what picked up a couple.. how would you find something like that?

Well... I just had to look through two or three years, because I had to think back erm... And I had to try and work out my age, how long I've been retired, when I worked at [a town] because I was just there whatever, so many years and then I was back at [a town] and then I was [another town]. So I sorted out all the years, so I didn't get it right, but within two or three years you know i just looked through and I got it.

How long did that take, is that something you sit down for what, half an hour? Half an hour, uh huh.

And you quite enjoy that sort of thing?

Ach I didn't mind, I was pleased able I was able to fit in... I presume it was purely to settle a discussion they must have had when they were really busy at the fire brigade.

How often would you say you.. do I look back? In a year or a few months would you say you look back?

Do I look back my diaries? (whew). I don't know... once a week, a fortnight from something.

And is that just the more recent ones, or is that all of them, that's all the way back as well?

Not all the way back. Sometimes if something crops up with my sons, I'll look back and it will be way back. And I'm sorry I haven't kept them all, I really am.

So you said you moved house and you threw them....

About 25 years.. obviously I've thrown away about 25.

Do you remember why you did that?

Uh huh, because I've as much junk, and I thought what am I keeping all these for. Who's going to be interested just me?

But now you wish you had...

Uh huh, when a look back, I wish I had kept, uh huh.

With these one's as well is there anything, have you ever torn any pages out or scribbled anything out or it is what it is?

No. No, uh huh.

And how do you think they've changed over time and what you write in them, and even just how you keep a diary, how do you think that's changed over time.

I definitely keep it everyday now whereas I might ave missed some days, well quite a lot.... Missed some bits and then you can't remember.

How do you feel about the bits that are missing?

Ah, wished I had done it everyday like I do....

There that was when had... look! That was when he had a blood clot, eill obviously I've been concerned, so I've kept doing it, 'back at the doctors'. When I thought his number was up! (laughter).

Do you want to go through a couple of examples, a few things like that to give me a flavour of what you were writing?

Well I would write that in to keep tabs on something. I would. Where was that? I never saw where it was, it was about November or something, because that was when we were building this house on eh..

That's what it cost to get my hair done. Highlights! November I think it was...

Alan, that was somebody playing the Ayr course that's the one that played before.

(mumble) rush. That was right, so I kept it everyday because I was concerned about that.

Erm... whether he was better I haven't heard!

Bridge.. erm. That's it now.. I've missed the bit, he must have been better there.

Do you carry them around with you?

No... I have my diary in my bag, all the time that I'm out. It sits on the table, there and I take it with me, because, well I have all those phone numbers in it and eh... my numbers... my code.

You would take it on holiday then and things like that?

Oh yeh, uh huh.

So maybe look at a more recent one, from the last ten years or something like that?

2007, 2005... (looking through diaries).

Ohhhh I did market research then, when I left the bank. Well do you know this... (story about getting the job, unrelated to diary).

So that's this sort of time?

Uh huh, we're in the museum. Oh no wait, this is somebody getting married, and this is getting stuff for the girls. This is TMS, that was market research. I kept a note... that's the money I got. And I used to spend it before we got home!

So there's practical things in there as well like train times and money?

Aye. We got the wrong train though! So busy blethering! The man came for the tickets and he says this trains going to Bathgate! You're on the wrong train! I said where the hell's bathgate! We're sitting on the wrong train, and people round about us offered to take us home and give us sandwiches and that. And I had to phone,

Then me and my brother, I had a brother died, but that's a long time, it just says he's two years drowned. I don't know... they're all market research things.

Would you say these are typical? You've kept in this sort of way?

Aye. Tidy is it?

And have you always used these kinds of diaries?

After I stopped... when [Bob] used to get us these, he got them from travellers, these great big diaries and I had one of them but then it wasn't practical really, when I started back in the bank, it wasn't practical after that to take a huge diary about there. You know I did for a while..

You used to write more then?

I don't think I would write much more, but I never forgot him saying 'I couldn't believe when you came in' (story about going for interview with huge diary).

But do you feel like what you've written there is enough to, remember what you...

Uh huh, I can remember things because I've sort of got something.

Can you almost describe what's going on in your head? How does that process work?

Well.. this is february, coming up for instance, see to do with the garden, I'll think - oh I buy hanging baskets, and I get them at Dobies, and I go to Monifeith, where I've found I've got the best ones, whatever they are. But if you buy two, you get them for £50, and I tell him you're getting a bargain. It'll tell you on the

telly or papers or something, do not put your plants out until the 1st of June. And I'll say, I'm sure that we went to Dobbies on such and such a date, right, and I'll keep them in the garage, and then put them out, and I'll look back my diary and I find when they were out, and what I paid for them. But nothing of great note, but I do write something like that in.

Do you feel like... you've got these for a long time... do you feel like you've got a very good account of things?

Uh huh. For me aye.

And is there things that are missing, or wish you had recorded better?

Yes, yeah right. Now, how can I get this back to you.. as I say [Bob] had a blood clot, and he had another one when we went down to Cambridge, and Jim took us and I think it's because we were all in the car with all the christmas presents... But erm... I would write that in. Now another thing, he started wheezing.. and he wasn't right about July or August. And the dr is a friend of Alan's and we phoned and saw him. But the next year it happened again and I says 'you know, you were like that last year.' I said I bet you were. and I had written it in. So that has gone on for quite a lot of years. It starts July, but it finishes how he feels, the end of August or whatever... (story about discovery of hay fever)

And so I did.... and I wrote it down.. out my diaries, on a bit of paper for him, for about 5 or 6 years when he had started being like that and when he'd finished.

Are there are other things missing from it?

I can't say I really regret. I regret the one's I've thrown out because because now as I say these things are older and I could have looked back a lot of things. Because a lot of the world centred around the golf. Because both of them went every weekend and so did we or I.... aye we met a lot of lot of people and you still meet them and you now, the one's we met then, who were a bit older than them, their sons, [Joe] has their son's as students.

What are the things in there now that are most interesting to you?

Healthy things (?) To look back at? Well as I say, that about the plants, I find it's good that I can look back and see that. I dunno... what else I write.

Do you look back nostalgically at all?

Aye, sometimes. And I'll read it out to him, and I'll say 'fancy, fancy!'. You know, and I have in, when we we have people in, kind of what we've eaten kind of what I've given them.

(laughter). Right! I don't write a lot in, right this is 2013. *Alan to see consultant* - this is the one that's away to America, and he was seeing that boy... anyway this chap, he's about Alan's age. Anyway I have here '*Dress kitchen floor, [Bob] watered the garden. Joyce* - that's my sister - *parked in the stables.*'"

Now I know what that means, that means, my sister stays just outside [another

town], and she stays - this is their house, and her daughter, it's no a good idea, but they stay joined on, and they're just here. They've got stables here, and this is their back door. Now my sister's 10 years older than me, and she's a nightmare. Well... we were sitting having were tea, and they heard this almighty bang, now they've been trying to persuade her not to dry, because she's just awful, bad on her legs and bad hearing and getting dottery. Anyway sitting eating our tea... and we went to the back door, and she says 'your mother's parked her car in the stables!'.

So I know what that means! That's a certain person.

Would you remember these things anyway?

I wouldn't have remembered it was two years ago believe it or not.

And do you get that kind of 'oh do you remember that?'

The day that I was looking for [Graham]'s thing that was held-up in the bank, I had to sit here with various diaries about the year that it happened I thought. And [Bob] was sitting there reading his book or whatever. And I'm sitting reading out 'fancy whatever happened then and then' and I wouldn't believe it was all that time ago and this.

Are they quite a social thing? Has [Bob] seen a lot of them?

He would never look at them. But then he would never look, but aye he's quite interested when I see 'you wouldn't believe it so many years since this' or i've put in somebody died that he golfed with. 'Fancy it's so many years since whatever'.

(Explaining looking back at Facebook)

But do you not think that is maybe kind of like, as I say, I've got a drawer full of photographs there. And you get your photos on there, and both [Joe] and [Aaron] - how many weddings have we had - and I didn't get an album from him with the wedding, none of them, he's given me a disc. Or whatever. To look at the photos. Well, you can look at whatever on there, and if I wanted to go and look at his - I don't think I've ever looked at it you know that? - his disk, with the wedding, you could get... but it's not like looking through all those photographs... and I think *that...* is better than looking at that.

(story about teaching)

(discussion of taking photos of grandchildren)

But how do your diaries compare to photographs and things and other sort of momentos? How do they compare?

I quite like that I'm able to look back for things, I must say.

Do you ever look at the diaries and then go and dig out photographs?

I won't say I've never done that... but erm... no.. trying to think if there's anything

else important that I could. Ugh - that when Alan got married to the second one that' just done half a million - that's all her family because I couldn't remember!

But in terms of sentimental value, are these more important than photographs? Or just different?

Different. I mean I think maybe our family, or other people would maybe look at photographs, today I've been down at my friends, and her husband was there, same age as us, and he'd been through her mums stuff and he came out with all the school photographs. Now [Bob] was at school at with her, she was in my secondary school with me, but they were at [local] school together, and we're trying to make out who they all are. And you even had older ones, and it was [Christine], my friends mum, and somebody, I don't know who, because it was written out so and so and so and so, can't remember, 5th along, and it had June Ferguson, and that's his mother. And I said oh, right enough there it is. And they must be, I don't know, how many years old. You'll never get that off... these (mobiles). **These things stay in a drawer somewhere...** he was just cleaning out, uh huh.

I don't know if anybody would ever... it wouldn't make sense to anybody else.

Do you think if your sons or [Bob] or friends be interested in... No... Would it make sense to them?

They might, if they... friends might be able to make some sense of it. But not unless they were friends. I mean photographs are different, anybody out that class, I wasn't in the class but I could still relate to a lot of people. But I quite like to be able to look back.

And when you were writing them were you thinking this would be something you would look back on?

You just kept a diary... I just kept a diary out of interest I suppose, that I would be able to look back.

But you never imagined you would have this...

No no, for all that time... I just thought it would be handy and I kept it. And then as I say, I regret throwing out the ones as I did.

Obviously now you wouldn't have done that, so even at the time 25 years ago... were they not as important as then?

I don't think I gave it as much thought to be honest. I just had a kind of clearance because we moved house.

What do you think now might happen to these diaries?

Ach, same as everything, it will just get dumped. Your family don't want you've... not even, not just diaries. Things my age group say now, when we were younger, we would maybe have wanted, or would have been glad to have some of the things that were your mother's father's or grandparents. People don't want other people's things. They'll take the money! They would maybe have... I mean it used to be an argument who was getting the grandfather clock.. no now... you wouldn't

want... well, there's the odd person who's maybe interested in that sort of thing. But not on the whole. **Doing a phd about memory makes me think more about the past!**

A few people are interested in antiques and whatever, but on the whole, people don't want... nut.

So these are just something that... Oh that'll just get dumped.

You wouldn't want someone to look after them?

Nut. And yet you see in the papers or television, something has been unearthed for George VI or somebody's letter or writing. But then again I'm no very interested when I see that.

(Email from Australia looking up forebears)

(Story about strange family who visited)

When you're looking back - is there certain details that stick out, or do you get an overall sense of that period of time...

I'm amazed when I look back, at some of the things that I read, I'll say fancy, fancy that, shout to him, I don't think he's all that interested.. but erm.. I can't think of anything. A lot of bridge. (long pause). I don't know. Then we had a robbery here... somebody broke through, and I had a lot of jewellery and I lost it. Look. [A big town] - sold my ring. All I had was my ring that I was wearing and I sold it and I got a bracelet and pearls.

Do you feel... I wouldn't have remembered that.. Is it these little particular details, or is that whole period of your life coming back to you if that makes sense?

When I read that... for instance, that we had the robbery. Oh, it brings that all back, uh huh. He says he wished - he was only out ten minutes and he wished he had come back - thank god he didn't!

Do you feel like you have a good memory generally?

I have, but he doesn't.

Do you think that's because you keep a diary?

Maybe because I've written down. Maybe helps, as well.

How often are you surf of surprised by them - or you've just forgotten about, or are there things that really surprise?

Uh huh. I would say when I read it back, I'll say fancy this and fancy that. I do uh huh. Uhuh it's interesting. Something will prompt you to look for something, and before I find it, I'll have to read through it... I'll know it's say a Sunday. And I'll look through all the Sundays' until I find it, and I'll still say fancy this and fancy that.

Are you quite proud of having these diaries?

I don't know about proud but it's handy, uh huh. And I keep them and I have a

rough idea of what year and I'll... ask [Bob] what he thinks...

Anything to add?

About the diaries? Do you think people now? As I say - I give them to my grandchildren at christmas a long with birthday books, but I don't think they'll have ever kept anything, but then they've both got phones.

Did you keep a diary as a teenager?

No.

It was when you met this woman you started?

I think so.. and hers was very precise, she wrote a paragraph or whatever everyday.

Could you imagine having done that?

No.

Why's that?

I think I had more to do as I say, they'd no family, and eh we went on holidays with them and that. And they were different. When we played cards with them when it was their turn on a Sunday night - well you'll no play bridge - somebody sits out the dummy. Well when we had had a supper, it was one of them the dummy, she would remind him - go and do the dishes and set the table for the breakfast and whatever, whereas when they came here, I didn't bother with all that, I mean I would dust wait til. But they were different, they only had one another to... they were a lot older than us swell.

Any other questions for me?

It's handy, it's very handy. I mean I wouldn't forget. I wouldn't forget anything because I have it written down. And he'll say look up and see whatever. As I say, we do play a lot of cards, we do have people in a lot, we do go out a lot. An 8 that we had... and in those days I had a starter a main course, a pudding and coffee and then we paid cards. It was 6pm to 11pm or something... Anyway, there was this family, and 6 of us were there waiting to have our meal, and the other couple were never coming and never coming so they phoned to try and find out, and they'd forgotten! Now 2 of them to forget! She was way to golf the chap! And I thought, I couldn't fathom that out, how could you forg.. anyway we all enjoyed it so I wouldn't forget. But aye I though, I wouldn't forget, so I would have it in my diary. So even if you've missed a day, I'll look see what I've got next week.

So you write ahead as well?

Well.. I'll write things, I have. Or... whatever I've to go back to the optician, I've to phone at the end of April I'll write that. But it's phones now... I mean when I see Alan he gets reminded, everything's on his phone. More so that journaling... but as I say he's got a really high powered, it's no 9-5, it's 24 hours. And everything comes up, even wee things. I'm amazed... he must key it in.

I'm older... that's more reliable! I would be frightened that wouldn't work! Whereas

my age group, it's written down. **And it's in your writing...** Well the fact I've written it I suppose helps you to remember it as well.

You've written bits and pieces and facts and figures and numbers as well?

Do you wish you had more of it?

Wish that I'd written more?

Just details like that.

Oh just maybe about somethings, if something crops up. Uh huh, if something crops up for instance we went and had the car serviced and we went to Dundee. But I'll say to him - 'what did we pay for this car when we bought it' - now I'll look back, he'll tell me when we bought it, I can't remember, he knows better than me, the registration number but I'll look back and hopefully I'll have written it what we actually paid for it along with trading in your car.

You've never really then recorded thoughts and feelings about things, why do you think that is? Why is it more everyday sort of things?

I don't know. It's just because it's a record of things. It's no really got a feeling no.

Have you ever thought about doing that?

No. So I'm not bothered who reads it, there's nothing...

Oh you see on the tele 'someone has written in their diary and they think this and they think that... No. No.

There's so many different ways, everyone's diary keeping is a really unique practice.

Do you remember these things quite clearly?

And a hole in one... because he had a hole in one this year and I had to look back, because I had to look, I had to find, to try and find out, when he they had them, because I had to find out what to do and I had to go and get a written statement from the secretary because it was just a bounce game. I was only wanting to get him a tie, and I knew they had both had sent to some firm and they got a tie, the hole in ones or whatever it is.... when she looked back, she had all that on record?

And this matched up?

Uh huh! I was quite amazed. I found I had on a book, fresher and [Glenny] it is, and it's not called that now, and when I looked up on the internet I'm not that good.

That's his first wife [Fiona]...

But does that come back quite clearly, or does it feel quite long ago?

That's a long time ago, same with the wives that he's had. And I'll look back, I can't remember how long it is. This is when we bought his.. this is 1990, 2013...

When you chucked them out, did you chuck them all out and start again, or did you keep some of the more recent ones?

I kept 19... I'll have it somewhere 83. Because that was the year that [Aaron] won everything at the golf, and I kept that. I don't know where it is, it's maybe in the drawer somewhere, but I did keep it, because [19xx] he won the Scottish boys, he won.... uh... everything, Scottish amateurs. He'll try to qualify for the open this year, he's never done it...

Motivation for study

Comparison to Anne frank (not like that)

Her conception of diaries on TV