

C & G interviewing Jacki Rowley about Sheffield's Harcourt Road

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Clara (C): Thank you. So today is August 22 and we're really happy to have Jacki with us at CNG apartment and to talk about your memory of Harcourt Road. So perhaps Jacki, can we ask when did you get to know Harcourt Road in Sheffield, was it when you were a child?

Jacki (J): No, it was when I was a university student. So I came to Sheffield in 1983 and in I lived on Leamington Street in Crookes in 85 and then in 86 I moved on to Crookesmoor Road, and then I went abroad for six months. And then when I came back, I moved on to Harcourt Road. So that's 1986-87

C: But you were still a student?

J: No, I'd graduated, just finished. So I kind of knew it when I was a student, but then I moved in after I'd finished.

C: Why did you move in to Harcourt Road?

J: Well, I'd lived on Crookesmoor Road, with my friends, and they were still there. So I'd been because I'd been away for six months, so I needed to find somewhere to live, and I wanted to be in that area. And I think one of the reasons, apart from having friends there, is that the kind of hub of the area was Hadfield pub, which is now Sainsbury's. So Sainsbury's used to be a pub called the Hadfield and we used to be there most nights, really. So when you were looking for somewhere to live, you wanted to be close to the Hadfield pub, you know, my friends were in the area and so, so yeah, Harcourt road was...

C: So, how was Harcourt Road like in 1986-87.

J: Well, at the end of the road, where you were yesterday, previously, that's where the drug dealers used to be. So now, where you've got, like, Jehovah's Witnesses and everything that used to be the kind of drug dealing area, but that was, like probably a little bit before I moved in. But I can remember some friends coming from Rotherham, and they kind of ironically said, 'Oh, this is a very salubrious area that you've got' so if people came to it, they could see it was pretty run down, and there was still some houses on the park side that were family houses that were quite nice, but a lot of them were still, you know, that a lot of them, especially that have kind of like basement flats that were pretty dingy. And then the other side, the side where I lived, that was, yeah, pretty low quality housing.

C: So was it a multiple occupancy unit?

J: Yes they almost all were multiple occupancy.

C: How many people lived in the house that you lived in?

J: Oh, gosh, I'd say maybe, maybe six. But when I was still in it, it got turned into a bail hostel, so the people who were from prison, so the landlord announced that some of the other people had moved out right, and the landlord announced that he was turning it into a bail hospital with me still in it, so I had a room downstairs. And there were quite a lot of people living in it then, because there were, I think there

were even people on bail that they had partners and things with them. So there were a lot of people living in it at that point, and they were all, they were all...

C: How did the landlord turn that into the bail hostel? Did he have some contract with the social housing?

J: I think he must have done. It wasn't really ideal for a single woman in her 20s to be living in a bail hostel, and then obviously he agreed to put a lock on my door. Okay, one night, I came home and it had just been kicked in, and my stuff was gone.

C: So how long did you live in that unit? Did you decide to move because of that?

J: I did eventually. I lived there for quite a while it was a bail hostel...

C: So it didn't bother you, or you handled... you managed it?

J: I managed it. Yeah.

C: Okay, so besides that, were there other students living in the... the other multiple occupants? Because nowadays we do know around the area, there was much student housing, but maybe in 1986-87 it wasn't that like that yet, or?

J: There were quite a lot of students already. But there were also, I think, quite a lot of people who were unemployed, living on there just in single houses. The house opposite was a brothel - directly opposite - that was a brothel when I first moved in, and then the house next door to the brothel, there used to be a man living in the upstairs room who'd have his all his curtains open and everything. And then he'd be bare chested, and you could see him throwing knives.

Gum (G): To practice?

J: I don't know what he was, you know, I mean, I think just at something on the wall or I don't know what he was doing. And then sometimes, if he saw you at the window, he'd come and draw the curtains. But he always had taken his top off. He was always bare chested...

C: In the summer, I guess?

J: Oh, I think any time, that's just part of the ritual. I don't know what he was doing.

G: In the 80s, when you lived in the house, it had a big entrance, a big door, and then there were different rooms, independent rooms?

J: Yeah, so you went up some steps, and then my room was the big, what would have been the living room, and then behind that was a room that, strangely, they hadn't let out. They still kept it as a communal room. It wasn't used that often as a communal room. And then there was a kitchen, which flooded. You couldn't use it for quite a while, because it was probably in a good six inches of water. And then upstairs there was a bathroom. So we all, and I think, I don't know in the attic whether there was another toilet or not because I never actually even went up to the attic, but there was a bathroom that more people used than would be allowed to use now and then there must have been, I don't know, there must have been at least another four bedrooms. I think so. When I moved in, it was all students, until it got turned into a bail hostel. Yes, and then, at least another bedroom in the attic. And I don't know if there was another... certainly when I lived on Crookesmoor Road in the big houses, there wasn't another bathroom in the attic. So Crookesmoor Road there were two rooms let downstairs and a kitchen, and then there were three rooms let upstairs with a bathroom and another room let in the attic.

So there were all of those rooms all sharing one bathroom, which would be way above the number of people allowed to use one bathroom now.

C: But back then, maybe there wasn't strict regulation.

J: Yeah, there didn't seem to be any regulation. So there were no fire doors. There was no safety in any of it, and I think, in the attic rooms in a fire there was no fire escape or anything like that.

C: How about the people then... so for example before it turned into a bail hostel, did you know the other occupants in the house? And how about the neighbours?

J: Yeah, the other occupants in the house were students. They were all male students. They were just kind of typical laddy students. We used to have parties in the house, because, because we had the room, the communal room, it was quite a good party house. And people used to, I think in those days, quite often you would be in the pub, and after the pub finished, you'd think, okay, where's a party? And quite often, you just followed a big group of people. And you'd think, Okay, this is a big group of people. They're obviously going to a party. So you'd just follow them and go to whatever party it was.

C: Even though you may not know the people living in the house?

J: You just kind of followed them, and then that was the party, and no one ever bothered. So that would be the same if you had a party in your house, people would maybe hear the party or come in, and then there were people that I knew, I can't even remember, who lived next door, actually, because those housed John Don but there were people that I knew across the road who lived across the road. And then there were people who I knew who lived in an attic. Okay, so must have been two bedrooms in the attic further down, because they both lived there. And then there were a few people that I knew that had a basement, really not very nice basement rooms, like on the park side thing, pretty horrible, damp and dark.

G: Was it cheap? The rent?

J: I think it was the same as I paid on Crookesmoor Road. And then when I moved from there, I moved into Ashgate Road in Broomhill. And it was, I know it was the same price, because at that time when I came back from abroad, I was signing on so my rent got paid, but when it got turned into a bail hostel, they couldn't post any of my rent checks because they just would have been stolen, so I had to go down and collect them. But then I know that when I transferred to another house, the rent was exactly the same. So I think it was kind of standard for those kinds of student accommodation, but none of them were good quality. I mean, none of them had double glazing, none of them had central heating. They were really, really, really cold, really cold. They just had a gas fire, and they quite big rooms on Harcourt roads and Crookesmoor Road. So you'd just be right on top of the gas fire, and you'd feel it. You'd feel it for, you know, like maybe a metre that you were in front of it. But when we went to bed at night, we used to put all of our clothes on to go to bed because it was so cold. It really was cold because the winters were colder in Sheffield then. Yeah, I can remember trying to get down Harcourt Crescent once in the snow when I'd come back from the pub. And I was with a friend, and we'd had quite a bit to drink. And we just, I remember looking at and saying, I can't, I can't get down there. It's just too slippery. Because it is so steep. And I didn't live far from the bottom of Harcourt Crescent but I was just saying no, no, I can't do it.

C: Well, after it was turned to the bail hostel did you talk to those people who lived in the same house? How was the social life?

J: Yeah, I talked to them. They had quite strict conditions, though there were no parties then, so they had a woman that came in that kind of kept them quite under control. And so, for example, in the kitchen, when it had been a student house, it was just always pots, and when you could use it, when it

wasn't flooded, there were always pots and pans and dirty things everywhere. But when it became a bail hostel, she absolutely insisted that if they made anything, they washed it straight away afterwards. But I remember one night I'd cooked, and, you know, I'd eaten with friends, and I hadn't washed up, and she came hammering on my door saying I had to wash up as soon as I'd cooked. And I thought, well, I am not actually part of the bail hostel, but, yeah, she was quite formidable, really. But she didn't live there, and when my room got broken into she told me I should call the police, but I didn't actually call the police.

C: And why? Did you manage to fix it by yourself?

J: I think they fixed the lock again on the door, and I think actually they took what I'd got. So after that, I didn't really have anything for them to take. I thought they probably knew that if they broke in again, there's nothing really to take. And they didn't break in again.

G: Did you hear about Harcourt Watch? There were some residents who did patrols at night on Harcourt road?

J: What year did they do that?

C: Let me find the article. Oh, it doesn't have, it doesn't have the date. Sorry, I'm trying to look at my files to see...

G: Because we interviewed some residents on Harcourt Road and they said they had formed Harcourt Watch. This group was formed by the residents.

C: They kept, some of the residents kept a photo, yeah, on the newspaper.

J: It's difficult to date it from that photo, isn't it? I'm trying to try to kind of look at...

G: It's 80s, maybe early 90s.

J: By the 90s, I'd moved up to Walkley. I mean, it doesn't surprise me. Yeah, there were quite a lot of alcoholics and drug addicts living on the street. And I can remember one night because the communal door was open, and I was with a friend, and we heard the door go, and we kind of looked outside, looked out, and there was this woman with a stranger just walking up the stairs. And we were quite frightened, because she didn't really look well, she was obviously an alcoholic. And after about an hour, we heard the door go again, and she'd gone out, and we went up, and she'd just gone up, and she'd just fallen asleep in one of the bedrooms upstairs, and she'd left empty bottles, and she'd left, actually left her purse, and we took it. We took it to the police station. She left some clothes, but, yeah, she just wandered in and went and had a sleep so there were quite a lot of alcoholics and drug addicts living on the street that would obviously feel they could walk into somebody's house, because I think on student houses, often the front doors would have just been left....

C: Because they were individually locked?

J: Well, I think mine was the only one that individually locked.

C: Oh, really?

J: Because, yeah, the others didn't lock until, maybe when it became a bail hostel, and might have locked them, but before, in fact, before it was a bail hostel, my room wasn't. None of the rooms were locked.

C: At that time, people didn't pay too much attention to safety?

J: No. And things like the kitchen flooding, they weren't... Like nowadays, I think you'd be onto your landlord. We did mention it, but they weren't really that bothered that we didn't have a usable kitchen. There didn't seem to be any regulation or any comeback that you were paying rent, but you didn't really have...

C: How long did you live there?

J: Maybe a year, a year and a half...

C: And in that really short period of time it's changed to a bail hostel already.

J: Yeah, so students were probably there for quite, quite a while, because I can remember having parties.

G: How often did students have parties?

J: It wasn't just the students, it was me as well. I don't know, sometimes they were planned and sometimes they were just fairly spontaneous.

C: Was it mostly during the weekends?

G: Once a week?

J: No, not once a week, it wasn't that often because you'd often like, go to, you know, like, I say, you just stop at five parties somewhere else. So, yeah, every couple of months.

C: Was there music? Any memorable ones you recall? What song was played that you liked the most in those parties?

J: Quite a lot of people were still into punk in those days. So there was, you know, I remember, there was somebody that I knew across the road. He was an anarchist, and they called him XXX. So he was really into punk. And so there'd be that. I suppose there'd be, I don't know, kind of new romantic things, Talking Heads, The Smiths were really popular...

G: The Pet Shop Boys?

J: Yeah...

C: So you mentioned drug dealers. Did the police come often to, you know, check on them. Or how did it happen or work?

J: I don't think I ever saw the police. I honestly think it had quite a reputation for drugs and sex work. And I think it was just, well, that's almost like it was contained there. So let it, let it happen there. And, I mean, this is the, this is the impression that I got, you know, let it happen there. People will go there, and then it won't be elsewhere. I mean, the police might have a completely different story. They might have been well, on top of it and monitoring it and making sure it didn't go beyond, I don't, you know, we would never really know. I mean, I know when I lived on Crookesmoor Road, again, opposite us there was a kind of bail type hospital hostel type thing. And I, my friend, had reminded me that once they shot our door with an air pistol, it was like a bullet, a kind of capsule embedded in it, which I didn't even remember it so it was obviously not even that scary to me, but when you came out there, sometimes it used to be two people in a car supposedly reading a newspaper. But we always thought, we always

said, Oh, there's the police, you know, kind of keeping an eye out. So I think because they looked so obvious, sitting there reading a newspaper, and you thought they're not reading, you know, they're plain clothes police.

C: Where did they park, like, maybe close to the phone booth?

J: They just parked on Crookesmoor Road, on the street, and they could see, obviously, various houses, so obviously there was a kind of police presence so it could have been the same was happening on Harcourt road, and they were just keeping an eye to make sure it all kept within where they wanted it to be, and didn't get any further. But you never saw uniformed. I never saw uniformed police on Harcourt Road.

C: So, you lived there for over a year, but the drug dealers and the other prostitute business didn't really bother you? Like, personally, they didn't come across? There's some, somehow boundary between different businesses?

J: It was because there were those houses on the park side that did still have families. You know, they did have families, not as many as there are now, it still had a feel of a 'this is the nicer side, and this is the other side'. But even on the nicer side, there were still a lot of more rundown houses. But I think it was kind of accepted that lots of different people live here, and some families and some students and and some are engaged in, you know, more dubious activities. But that's just as it is. And I think my friend said she remembered a lad who was about 12, and he lived on the not on the park side, on the other side. And she said that she remembered him. He'd obviously kind of got the language from the pimps and the drug dealers, and that he did go up to people, and he did make very misogynistic comments to women. And he did, he was like, trying to be like, like they were. You know, I don't know if he lived with pimps and drug dealers. But she said that he was, he was very, kind of, like in your face and bothering you and obviously trying to prove himself and everything. But I don't remember him. And I never, kind of got offered drugs or, I never got, I've never kind of got men... you know... it wasn't like Broomhall. If you walked through Broomhall, you would get men kind of pulling up next to you in the cars, pretty much every time you walked through Broomhall. That would happen, but that never, ever happened to me on Harcourt Road.

C: Interesting, like parallel living zones.

G: You said drug dealers and some other illegal things, were mainly located in the middle of Harcourt Road?

J: The drug dealers were everywhere. I think there were drug dealers in some of the top flats, not on the park side. I don't know. You know that there were obviously people.... There were obviously houses where people knew to go to, but I don't know which ones they were. I know of the kind of more open drug dealing, which actually, by the time I moved in there, that was kind of going a little bit. That had been a little bit earlier that people were selling on the streets, so I think it had gone probably more into people's houses, but because it's quite a long street, really, and I was aware of, obviously, what was happening opposite, or nearby or where friends lived, but it's probably quite an easy street to engage in activities because it is so long and you're not really aware unless it's right next to you of what's happening.

G: So in the late 80s would many people walk around all the time at night and during daytime? More than even now?

J: It was pretty busy. I mean, I used to walk back. I mean, obviously Hadfield's not very far, and I used to feel okay walking back on my own, even though it was obviously, you know, not kind of the best of areas, or sometimes kind of walk along Crookesmoor Road with my friends and then come down.

Things did happen. I did have a friend, sadly, who was attacked again, where you were yesterday, so you were on your guard, but there were generally enough people walking around for you to kind of think, I'm kind of all right, because there's other people. There's other people around you.

C: And you're talking about during the daytime, or even night time?

J: Yeah, daytime, I never would have thought twice about it. Night time, I would have been okay. I'm watching. I'm just kind of watching. Are there other other people, or other other people that I kind of feel like I'm okay walking along till I get home and everything so but actually, I wouldn't have walked from town pass the park on my own. That would have been....

C: So you take the bus or drive?

J: I think I would always make sure that I was with someone. We did used to go in the park at night with other people. You know, obviously with other people, there's to be like, boats on the lake to go and sit on the boats and so if you were with other people it would never bother me, but I wouldn't have gone in that park on my own at night. Absolutely no way.

C: So you mentioned you later moved to Broomhill. And then, but still, well, I think we can still consider this to be a close by neighbourhood. So may I ask how do you see significant changes in that neighbourhood, like Broomhill, Broomhall, Harcourt Road, Crookesmoor in the 90s? And what happened? I mean, we've only lived here for three years, and it really looks really different from what you described - how did those changes happen? What happened?

J: I always thought that Harcourt Road, because of the location by the park, and those houses being so beautiful, kind of overseeing the park and everything.... I always thought because in the 80s, house prices started really, really rising, and people started buying, builders, landlords, started buying houses and really doing them up and then selling them just to for you know, phenomenal profits. And I thought all of Harcourt road would become family houses, really quite desirable family houses. And I'm still surprised that that hasn't happened to the extent that I thought. So I still, now I walk along, there's some lovely family houses on the park side, and actually, even on the other side, there are some nice family houses and on Crookesmoor Road as well. But I was surprised in the 80s and 90s that that didn't happen to all of Harcourt Road. I really thought it would. But the house that I lived in Broomhill, there's a house next door but one, that's an old Georgian house, and that's being sold now, and that is an absolutely stunning house, but that house was actually even worse than the bail hostel, because drug dealers from Parsons Cross moved in, and as the knives seemed to follow me, because I remember there were knives embedded in doors, and they they used to be people sleeping, just everywhere, being sick everywhere. And then one night, they tore all the banisters. I was in again, in the front room, they tore all the banisters down, and they were just kind of pretty much rioting. And I got out of my downstairs window in the middle of the night when this was happening. I walked to my friend's house on Crookesmoor Road, and kind of knocked on her door at two o'clock in the morning or whatever. And then I never, I never went back to that room. So it was really, that was a really dangerous situation to be in. But now that house, those houses are, like three quarters of a million, family, really stunning houses.

I think because students have moved into the city centre. And in those days, students lived in. It was almost part of being a student to live in a damp, cold house with, you know, rats and leaks and everything. It was almost part of the ritual of being a student, of living somewhere like that with no central heating and, you know, and sharing the bathroom and now students, it amazes me, live with Wi Fi and parking, you know, all their bills are paid and everything, right? I just think, gosh, when you move out of that, you'll actually be going to take a backward step in your accommodation, whereas as a student, you expected to move into something better eventually, but now I think students are going to be moving back to their parents. So yes, I think the student experience just doesn't bear any relationship to the student experience that we had. And yeah, you lived in those houses and you had parties, and you weren't bothered about getting beer and wine on the carpets because they were filthy

anyways. So because there are less students in Crookes, Walkley, they've now become family homes or homes for young couples, they're much more family orientated.

C: The vibe and the whole atmosphere becomes really different.

J: It's very different. Yeah, so when I moved into Walkley, there were students next door to me, but now there's very few student houses, I don't think, and we always used to, when we walked from town, we used to joke about it being the student line, like a tree line when you when you get like, wooded areas, but then the trees become less and less sparse. And we always used to call it the student line, because as you walk through, like Crookesmoor was just rammed with students, and then you'd kind of get to Commonsides and there'd be a few more, and then Walkley, there'd be a few more. But then if you went out to Stannington, for example, there won't be any so they became a bit less sparse, but, but Walkley had, did have a lot of students, but Crookesmoor was so close to the University that it was 'Student Central', really. But now I think those students are living in nice rooms in town and those houses are now more family houses.

C: It reminds me of this news article also shared by one of the residents from 2006 because you also mentioned families and student housing. Do you think is it desirable to find a balance between family houses and student houses? Is it possible?

J: I think so, yeah. I mean, I think what I've seen on Harcourt Road, which is really nice because I still walk up it a lot, is those little posters about getting students and families coming together, to have those little parties, to feel like it's a community, which then makes students probably, if they feel more part of the community, then they're less likely to have the rubbish everywhere, and, you know, maybe be a bit more - like I suppose when we had the party, we never thought we were bothering anybody, because, probably everybody was, if they heard the noise, they'd come to the party. Now, if I lived next door to them, I wouldn't be happy. So I think what's happening on Harcourt Road, if that is successful, of bringing all the very disparate elements that still are, I'd be really interested to see a breakdown, actually, of what those houses are. I mean, I like which family, which are multiple occupancy, which are, who's living there would be really fascinating. But, yeah, I think it's possible., I suppose you still get, still get students who don't really respect that they've got families living next door to them. They're fewer and far between, like students living next door to family homes now, I think.

G: In 80s, 90s were the students mainly UK and local students? Were there many international students?

J: No, when I was there, it wasn't. It was pretty much, actually, in the 80s students, at university they're pretty much white, British, yeah, there wasn't the mix that you get now, you just didn't.

C: But did they come from out of Sheffield?

J: Yes, I didn't know anybody who came from Sheffield. People went away to university then, whereas now people can't afford to go away to university so much. So, yeah, university was a way of breaking the ties and moving somewhere different and gaining your independence. But they were, yeah, kind of middle class, white British. And unfortunately, that's how universities were. Now it's obviously much more open to a wider range of people, which is obviously much much better.

C: When you were living on Harcourt road or nearby there were not many community events like you mentioned? Street parties nowadays happen regularly.

J: No, you didn't. I mean, you recognised people from walking up and down, but if you didn't know obviously, I knew people because I knew them from the pub or I'd been to university with them or whatever. But if you didn't know people, you didn't really, you didn't really get to know them. That was

the same on top, on Crookesmoor Road as well. And you, you know these big roads with multiple occupancy houses unless you knew them, you didn't particularly get to know them.

G: You mentioned that quite a lot of people on Harcourt road and around there, actually were there many shops open until late in the neighbourhood?

J: There might have been on Barber road, but shops then weren't really - you had corner shops that were open late, but supermarkets obviously weren't open late. I don't think there were, because I can remember one night wanting some chocolate and and you know now, you'd be able to go to Ozmen, or you'd be able to go to Sainsbury's, or you'd be able to go to the little Tesco Express, or there's lots of places, if I wanted chocolate now in Walkley at 10 o'clock at night, I could get it. But you couldn't then. I think a friend that I've got now from a Yemeni family, I think her dad had a shop somewhere on Barber Road that might have been open longer. When I moved to Walkley there were corner shops still open.

That's was in 89 - there were corner shops and there were pubs, like pretty much for every kind of block of houses. There was the pub and there was the corner shop, which, now have gone, but I don't remember. There were no shops on Crookesmoor Road or Harcourt Road that I can remember. Certainly not on Harcourt Road, no. And there were the pubs. That's what happened at night, the pubs, really.

C: Where is that pub again?

J: It's where Sainsbury's is now. It was a big draw, the Hadfield. It was really, really well known. The Sainsbury's on Barbour Road. I used to go to Beanies a lot. That was where I did my shopping, and they were open slightly later, I think, than other places. Beanies used to be a big part of my experience of living on Harcourt Road. But yeah, the Hadfield was two in two parts. So it used to be a part that had basically what we always thought was old men. But, you know, they could have been anything from like 35 upwards, because they just would have seemed old to us then. But in my head, they were kind of like 50, 60, 70s and they had this part, and then this part here was more like alternative. So that's where you went. And you didn't encroach on the old men part, and they didn't encroach on your part. It was just kept separate. And again it had been known as a place where people went to find drugs. But then gradually, very sadly, I think the old men part did become taken over by, and the back room became like a pool room, or it had bands in it, so they had a lot of music going on there. Yeah, I think, like Longpigs and bands and things like that, and so people like that would have gone to the Hadfield. I was surprised it hasn't been mentioned, because it was really, a really well known pub and a really big draw. And we went there because it was so cold you'd go pretty much every night to keep warm.

C: I'm sure we will be able to find some photos online.

J: Yeah it was huge. The Hadfield was huge. And people always had their places, if I go into Sainsbury's now I could think that was our corner. That's where me and my friends sat, and this is where other people that I knew sat. And yeah, if you went in, you'd always be able to go in on your own, because there'd always be lots of people there that you'd know, you could always guarantee that you'd just go and sit with friends there to be somebody in. A lot of archeology students used to go in there. They are quite big drinkers, and I am still in touch with some of them now.

C: One to two more questions. Ideally, what kind of community or street would you like to live in?

J: Where I'd like to live now? Yeah, I'd like to live in a kind of a mixed community. So in terms of, like, young families to kind of give quite a lot of vibrancy to an area and different cultures, different but people you know, a community that's friendly, a community that gets together to organize things, community where you know a lot of people that yeah, definitely one that you where you know people, you have a chat with them, and one that's just quite diverse in terms of age and ethnicity.

C: About from the community organizing, what kind of activities or events would you envision that you would like to join?

J: Yes street parties with food and music. And my friends who live on Providence Road, they had a street party, in Walkley, and they had one before, and that they've got, they've got quite a nice community group going. So they've organized this really lovely street party, like food, music and magicians and everything, yeah, and things for children to do. But they also kind of come together to do like yoga or music...

C: In street parties?

J: No separately but yeah, it's got a kind of play, learning mahjong and things like that. Where I am, there's been, there's people that I know on my street that have been living there since the 70s and everything. So that really interests me as well, because I'm absolutely fascinated by my house is by 1860 and I'm just fascinated by the history of houses and the history of streets. Yeah. So I love to talk to people that have been living on the street for a long time, and people say, Oh, this used to be there, and this used to be there, and that house used to be this, and that really, really fascinates me. So, yeah, to have a really good age range as well. And yeah, people who are new and excited to be new to the street, and people who live there and can tell you some tales from 50 years ago.

C: Yeah, yeah, we are enjoying this process in this project.

J: What's the oldest resident that you found?

C: We talked to Nic Ralph. He's lived there for 50 years already.

So we witness all the changes and analyze different periods of development of the street.

J: So are his experiences in the 80s, similar to what I've been saying? I'd like to talk to him - it might be really interesting.

C: And I think he, he and some other residents on the street, even before they moved to Harcourt Road, they've been involved in different activist movements. So I think they, they really like to come together to advocate important things for the community, like, for example, to go to negotiate with the university, to sell their houses to the families. I don't find it very easy, particularly easy thing to do for anyone, but yeah, I think they have the passion and, yeah, the ability. That's amazing.

J: Yeah, yeah. I think that's the thing about having, not just having more kind of students, is that there's more investment in a road like, for example, the road that I live on now, there's a green space at the top that had been back to back houses and that were demolished in the 70s, and now is just a lovely green space with trees and the worry that the council might decide to build on it, but the street has kind of come together to put in a village green petition. So I think it's nice to have people that have invested in the street, that are a bit more long term, or feel like it's their home, and that's why, I guess, if you've got the balance is tipped to students, you wouldn't get that. But if the balance, if there's more of a balance, then you've got people who do have more investment in the community as a whole, and what's happening in it, who can kind of like say, Oh, this is what we this is what we want, even like we want a crossing, you know, we've got children to take to school. Just people that think I'm going to be here with my family for a long time, and I care about people, other people who live here, so I'm going to work to make it a community really.

G: Last question, do you know any other Harcourt Road around the world or in other cities?

J: I don't even know who this Harcourt road was named after...