

Miss Julie's brief return to The Institute 'with' her nan.
A conversation, and a walk – a small commemorative act.

A transcript related to my residency at The Institute for The Art and Practice of Dissent At Home.
Cathy Butterworth

This writing will cover the subjects of family, leisure, entertainment, employment, finances, pets, the home-made, highest points, back doors and ghosts. It allows for slippage, loss of memory, unasked questions and the seemingly unbelievable, along with the inclusion of one or two white lies in the pursuit of pleasing resonance. All white lies are revealed in the footnotes (in due course). Slippage and loss of memory are mostly self-evident. Explanations of the seemingly unbelievable remain beyond the scope of this writing.

Lillian Butterworth (nee Porter)¹ lived in Amos Street, Everton from when she was born on 21 June 1925 until she was 12 years old, when the family moved to Compton Street, where she lived until she was 19. On Monday 26th October at 5.30pm my brother Rob (RB) and my two nieces Charlotte (Charl 11) and Samantha (Sammy 9) came with me when I went to interview my nan (LB) about growing up in Everton.²

CB So which year were you born nan?

LB 25, 1925

CB and where were you born

LB In Amos Street³

CB In Everton?

LB Yes, in Everton, yes

CB And you know what you were just saying before about what it was like, what was it like around there then, when you were growing up?

LB Yes and they used to have the banners coming in the street...

CB Banners?

LB No bands, bands all coming to the streets. Yes, and we'd all sit on the kerb, and we'd all be singing, to the band an' that, and a tram car used to come around, all lit up, you know, it was smashin'

CB And what did they play, what instruments?

LB All different things, drums, those erm you know squeeze box things

CB Accordion type thing?

LB Yes, and the spoons

CB And what sort of music did they play?

LB Ooh you know, band music, lively, erm I can't think of any tunes

CB So how old were you when you left there?

LB Erm, 19

CB So did you live in Amos Street til you were 19

LB No we went from Amos Street to Compton Street

CB And was that quite close?

LB Erm that was more, that was more Breck Road way. By St Margaret's Baths, I don't know if you know the baths?

CB No, I don't

LB Yes there used to be the baths there

CB So Compton Street was it

¹ My dad's mum, 'Nana Butt'

² We actually made a visit at 2.30pm but my nan was playing bingo in the common room of her sheltered accommodation and sent us away. We came back at 5.30pm assuming that the bingo must have finished by then.

³ On the map of the area from the 1930s it looks like Avos Street – it's definitely Amos Street.

LB Compton Street I finished up in yes

CB But... how old were you when you moved there?

LB From there? Oh when I...oh... I think I was about 12 when we moved to Compton Street

CB So were you born in the house in Amos Street?

LB Yes, well not in the house no, in hospital⁴

CB Oh, which hospital was it?

LB Yes, well, I can't think of the name

CB Oh I can find that out probably can't I?⁵ Erm, what else was I going to ask you? Erm so how many, I should know this shouldn't I?... how many brothers and sisters did you have?

LB 1 brother and 1 sister⁶

CB and what was your house like?

LB A two up two down

CB Was it?

LB [Laughs] Yes

CB I found a thing on the internet, like a... I'll see if I can get it working. It's film on the internet and it's of all that area, in the old days

LB Ooh is it

CB Yes, so shall I see if I can get it on now?

LB Ooh yes, do you have to plug it in?

Break in the recording

LB Erm my sister was 10 months older er 10, 10 years older

CB Your sister was 10 years older [surprised]

LB Yes

CB Oh really?!

CB And your brother was...

LB Just...yes, erm 12 months between us two

CB and he was younger?

LB Me dad used to go away to sea you see

CB ...and he was 12 months younger than you?

LB Older

CB Older

LB Yes older

CB Ahhhh

LB My dad went away to sea until he left and come to work on the docks

Break in the recording

CB And can you remember anything about what it was like around there at that time? You know, because I can remember you talking about handrails on the streets?

LB Yes, if you were going down, yes, if you were going down the erm .. where I lived , we lived up steps so coming in from Heyward Street⁷ into our street going down to Netherfield Road

[Sammy 'I support Liverpool'] to great Homer Street, an' that, it was all down hill

CB Have a look at this, it should be erm.... [Sammy You *do* have internet **CB** I know it's working now but it wasn't working before **Sammy** can I go on it after you? **CB** No, cos I'm showing your nan this]

CB This is in 1963⁸

LB Oh go'way, and where's that?

⁴ My nan was born on 13th June, not 21st. But she was born in 1925.

⁵ I haven't found that out

⁶ I forgot to ask their names

⁷ Actually Heyworth Street

⁸ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScjCujXknbs> (The first half of the Youtube film soundtrack is 'Halfway to Paradise' by Billy Fury. The second half is Dirty Ol' Town, this version by Ricky Tomlinson)

CB It'll show some street signs now

LB That was a car there...

CB Yes

LB But when I was there they didn't have cars

CB No, this is 1963, but I thought this might be a bit like it was when you lived there, it wouldn't have changed that much from when you were there...has it?

LB No, it hasn't

CB There look , Phoebe Anne Street, so this is erm

CB So that's Cain...er Cain Street ?

LB Cain Street yes

CB Cain Street⁹, Queens Road, do you know that?

LB Queens Road yes

CB There's the water tower...

LB Yes

CB Is that what the houses were like then though?

LB No ours was only straight erm just walk inAre you on strike today Rob?

RB No, not today, Thursday. It's my day off today¹⁰

CB So straight from the street

LB Yes, we walked in straight from the street to ours

CB So this is all taken in the 60s, it's hard to read what the street names are... Sykes Street

LB Sykes Street yes, but it doesn't say erm 5 or 6 or that does it?

CB No, no numbers or anything. Do you mean house numbers?

LB Yes

CB Do you remember the number of your house in Amos Street

LB Number 7

CB Really?

LB Yes...or 9. 7 or 9.... that's the back alleys isn't it. The back entrys

CB Etna Street

LB Etna Street yes, ahhhh ... no these are more like our houses

CB oh are they

LB Yes

CB Mind the cup Charl you've got your foot right by a cup of tea

LB There's a can of coke or that there if you want one ...

CB Feet off the couch Charl. The corner shop...

LB Oh yes , the corner shop yes,

CB There'll be photos and that on here, I can have a look

RB The only car in hours

Laughter

LB Yes look at that a motorbike. Oh yes look it says Everton

CB Erm ... Old Triangle Club¹¹

LB Oooh Yes, well where I lived ... that was off Heyward Street

CB Oh yes?

LB And the club yes, yes, cos they used to go and erm , The Triangle Club. The club was were you could go dancing and they had wrestling...

CB In there, in that club?

LB That was in that club

CB Did you go in there? They had wrestling? Wrestling?¹²

LB Oh yes, we used to go in all the time. Yes you could go in there you know with the dance, to dance, but only with the records. I loved the Triangle Club.¹³

⁹ It's Caird Street

¹⁰ My brother Rob is a postal worker, a postman. <http://www.cwu.org/royal-mail-dispute.html>

¹¹ It is actually 'Red Triangle Club'

¹² I'm still not convinced my nan meant wrestling, she didn't elaborate

RB Were your mum and dad Irish nan?

LB You know when they played records, it was smashin'

CB Yes, where were your mum and dad from originally nan?

LB They were more down the erm, yes,...

CB Does this look familiar?

LB No...

RB I thought Butterworth was erm... oh that's

CB That's me grandad's name

RB That's Joe's name

LB They're old houses aren't they? But you know in some of them, like where Auntie Adelaide lived they had no back, you know like you have a back door ...

CB Yes

LB Well she had no back door or windows and they had to come out and go in to a erm, to a thing, like...a...

CB a yard?

LB to get water

CB Radcliffe Street, do you know that

LB Radcliffe Street , that's further down yes

CB Aber Street

LB Yes, Margaret Street was where the baths was

CB Do you remember that?

LB Yes ...that's more like Breck Road way when we lived in Compton Street

CB So your mum and Dad were originally from

LB More down Scottie Road

CB And so was it your mum and dad and you three kids that lived in the house?

LB Yes

CB Did you have any pets when you were growing up?

LB No we didn't, but there were always dogs around, you know on the street. Do you remember bringing all the dogs into Ross Avenue Rob, all the ones from around by us, Scooby, and Trixie from next door? Do you remember, he always had all the dogs in the house didn't he?

CB Yes. So how old were you when you started work? Did you work in Everton?

LB I worked down town in the erm, in the box place, yes, making cardboard boxes, makin them on the machine

CB Look, The Clock Hotel

LBthen that got bombed. Then I went to another one, I went to Crawfords, they were further out. They made crackers.

CB Can you turn that TV down a bit please Charl, Sammy?

LB Put it on ITV Rob. Ooh look at the old lamp

CB Yes... so what was your house like inside nan, can you remember it?

LB ooh yes it was only just one room

CB Was it really small inside?

LB Yes, and ..

CB SO this is the 60s but it looks like quite old footage doesn't it? What's that, the Belmont, do you remember that pub?

LB For me, I know more like round the 30s and 40s

CB Yes, I think I've got some from then , let me have a look, I've got some erm, lets see

LB Yes cos I was there through the war

CB I've got some from the 1930s, I think it's just photos though. Liverpool tenements of the 1930s ...

LB The tennys?!...is that the tennys?

CB This is the thing about homes for workers, 1938 so you would have been 13 when this was made ..

LB Well erm Betty used to work ..erm...live in the tennys. Oh it was smashin'...

CB Oh so Betty was from ...

LB She was from Liverpool as well yes .. oh that's , there coming down aren't they?

CB Yes , they're knocking them down .. .can you see that alright?

LB Oh that's when they're knocking them all down isn't it? Oh god it was smashing in there, they used to all come out on the landing and me mates, me mates all used to live in the tenements. They were more down in the town .. the others used to have a long landing .. not just those, the landing come right across, see how they're standing out?

CB Yes ... so would people be out all the time, chatting?

LB Oh YES! And they'd be playing music, playing the spoons and all that, oh yes, the tennys were lovely There's one lot still up in Liverpool , there's students in it isn't there? They were alright inside you know. Is that the wash-house?

CB Yes... it'll go again in a minute, it's just taking a bit of time

Sammy My middle name's Lillian

LB Is it love?

Sammy Yes, didn't you know?

LB Erm, yes I think I did

Sammy Have you got a middle name?

LB No, we didn't have them then.....I've forgotten what they used to call the tennys, forgotten the name ... you'd put all your washing in there, to dry.... there you are there's the ones with the balconies that go right across

CB Did you used to go to the wash-house?

LB Yes we used to go to the wash-house , me mum used to go with the washing on her head...(Laughs)

CB So how many years younger than you was Betty?

LB She was in her 60s, she'd be in her 60s now ...

Charl Shh Sammy, she's recording

CB It's alright Charl

Charl Can we talk?

CB Yes of course

Charl Oh hi! (Laughs)

CB Have you got any questions you want to ask your nan about when she was little and growing up in Everton?

Charl Did you have to eat all the food that was on your plate?

LB Did you have to what?

CB Did you have to eat all the food that was on your plate?

LB Yes, else if you didn't eat it you'd get given it again to eat ...

Sammy What puddings did you have?

LB Pudding? Erm Bread and butter

Sammy What else

LB Just bread and butter

Sammy No other puddings?

LB No

Charl Did you get any pocket money?

LB Yes, a penny a week

Charl Ahhh (laughs), what did you spend it on?

LB Just sweets

Sammy What sweets were they?

Charl Oh yes Sammy would ask that wouldn't she? She's obsessed with sweets

LB Like erm ...

Charl Probably liquorice?

LB Yes liquorice and all, you know erm like the liquorice that used to go around

Charl Yes

LB With like a thing in the middle .. have you seen them , and you know the sherbert? sherbert in a thing...

Charl Yes, sherbert dip .. and what games did you play when you were little?

Sammy Did you have a playstation? Or a DS?

LB Two balls

Sammy Or a DS?

Charl Hardly Sammy they weren't even invented then

LB Two balls, we played two balls

CB So you said that your sister was quite a lot older than you, and what did she do? What was her job

LB She used to work in the dairy

CB Dairy?

LB Yes in the dairy because you never bought bottles of milk you used to have to go the dairy for milk

CB Oh and she worked in there? and where was that

LB erm where was it? Anfield road I think ... no was it? Yes. I know it was, we lived off Heyward Street and then it went further down .. erm Spurgeon Street and all them....

Sammy Can we watch The Simpsons?

LB Yes that was ...Spurgeon Street was further down .. and we lived Amos Street, that was the 2 up and 2 down, and then Compton Street

CB So how old were you then do you remember?

LB Yes, and then we moved to Compton Street .. Heyward Street was in between

Charl I've got a question...Did you have a TV?

LB TV? (laughs a lot) We couldn't even listen to the radio.

CB They didn't even have a radio Charl

LB Yes we did but me dad had it and he had earphones so we couldn't hear it

(Laughter)

Rob Didn't get a look in with the radio?

CB And your dad worked on the docks?

LB Yes after he come out the army...er Navy

LB Do you know I went down to Betty's that many times and I can't just remember where it is... where it was....

CB Lets have a look at this Liverpool from 1896 – 1955 .. I think these are photos, oh it's film as well

LB Look isn't that the tram? Yes and the horse and cart, because the horse and cart, you know when you go on the boat and you just walk on the boat it used to be like a float and the horse and carts used to go on there

Charl Auntie Cathy can I have your cake?

CB Yes... I think that's the overhead railway. Do you remember that? Did you go on it?

LB Yes, oh yes. Yes, our Georgie went on that, me dad took our Georgie on that when he was little

CB So, you left there when you were 19 did you? And did you move over here then?

LB Yes me sister, she evacuated with the kids and when she came to live over here and she told me mum there was a house going in Middle Road , and that's how we come over , she lived in Cherrybank the street next to ours , well that was only a two up and two down but the other one we had on Compton Street was a Parlour house

CB What was that, did that have two rooms downstairs?

LB No...erm like a parlour.... ..Myrtle Gardens, Myrtle Gardens it was....where our Betty lived

CB Did you used to play out in the streets there when you were a kid?

LB Oh yes, it was smashin'

Break in the recording

LB If you were coming up from Scotland Road you'd come up a hill and you'd come up the steps and it had a handrail.

CB Do you remember any of your neighbours? From then?

LB Not a lot no

CB That must be the docks isn't it ...and look at the boats on the river

LB Yes I mean you don't see them now

CB So did you go to church when you were growing up?

LB We used to go to, it wasn't a church, it was like a mission.

CB Oh yes, where was that do you remember?

LB That was in Heyward Street, yes we used to go there to watch the erm you know pictures on ...

CB Oh like a slideshow type of thing?

LB Yes the slides yes

CB And what did they have? What was it of?

LB Ah yes, it was all erm, used to be more for the young ones you know, from different places

CB From around the world?

LB Yes from around the world

Charl Did you play any sports, or like do any sport? like say swimming or netball?

LB Yes we'd go swimming. In school all we played was rounders

Charl Rounders? I play that, I'm not very good at it

LB And what's it called, netball

CB So what schools did you go to nan?

LB Lorraine Streetright through.... and when it was nice we used to do our sums and everything on top of the roof

CB Did you go out on the roof?

LB When the weather was nice yes we'd do our lessons on the roof

CB So how old were you when you left school

LB Er 14

CB Can you remember any of your teachers?

LB I remember the main one , Mr Dorsey er yes I remember him, the headmaster

CB (about the film) So I don't know when this is, I think it said 1901

LB Yes coming off the ships

CB Was your house like that ?

LB That was of the back yards that was wasn't it and the bin used to be in the wall in the back yard and the bin men just used to come and take the bin out

Charl What did you do for Christmas did you have like a giant family thing? Or...

LB Christmas?

Charl What did you do?

LB Well we only got erm, what? a penny in our stocking,

Charl Ahhh

LB And an apple and an orange, couple of sweets

Charl That's what they say on the telly, that they only got an orange and a penny, and like a yo-yo or a hula hoop. But did you have like a giant family thing?

LB We never had parties an' that

CB Like we have

LB Like they have now

CB... and did you see your aunties and uncles a lot?

LB Yes well we all lived by one another

CB And did you know your gran? And granddad?

LB Yes cos we all lived around

CB Which streets did they live in do you remember?

LB Well we all lived in the same street , all lived around

CB ...and how many aunties and uncles did you have?

LB Well there was Auntie Maggie, she was me mum's sister, Auntie Annie was me mums' brother's wife, Auntie Adelaide, and the others were all cousins

CB But you'd see them all the time? Cos they lived quite close?

LB Oh yes cos that's all you had, all the family, then. Ooh look at the wash-house (about the film), see they used to put the washing on the dryer. ¹⁴

Break in recording

¹⁴ My nan loves talking about the wash-house, or the bagwash, or the laundrette....for as long as I can remember she's talked about doing the washing. I remember her telling me that she never wanted to get a twintub in the house and that she'd rather go to the bagwash because you meet people there and you can have a 'jangle'.

CB So did you used to play out a lot when you were a child

LB Oh yes it was lovely ...and I mean we weren't closed in when we were kids, everything was all open cos I mean the mums used to sit out and the men went to work and the women looked after the kids...you know I don't think any of the women went out to work til after the war started because I never knew me mum to go out, but she used to take in sewing

CB Oh did she, what did she do?

LB Yes, and she used to make all my clothes

CB Did she?

LB Coats and that yes

CB Can you remember anything special that she made you? You know anything in particular that you used to like when you were little?

LB Yes when she made me a coat, with fur on. A red coat with white fur on it.

CB Did she make all your clothes?

LB And they knitted, that's all they used to do. And she'd take in sewing for other people as well....

Intercom buzzer goes

LB Just press that top one Rob when you lift the phone up, the very top one .. .could you hear her say the door's opening?

CB So did you always have quite a lot of people in your house?

LB Yes it was never empty, all the neighbours used to come in all the time....

Break in recording

CB Welcome to our? (about the film)

LB Welcome to our what?

CB Welcome to our? I can't see what that says .. I don't know where that is?

My cousin Jenna and her boyfriend Robert arrive to make my nan's tea¹⁵

CB We're reminiscing.... What are you making for tea Jen?

Jenna A roast

CB Do you remember those buses nan?

LB Oh they're the buses now aren't they? Do you want a chicken sandwich rob?

Rob No I've had something to eat thanks nan

CB Nan look that's the punch and Judy thing

LB Yes that used to come around, yes we used to have the punch and judy .. I think that's wotsername

CB St George's Hall?

LB Yes that's St Georges Hall there

Jenna Did me nan tell you about our party, me granddad?

CB Oh yes, what was all that about?

Jenna: Well....

Rob Did it freak you out?

Jenna I never knew anything about it at the time

CB So who was it who saw him? Robbie was it your friend?

Robert (Jenna's boyfriend) Yes

CB What did he say about it

Robert He was just dead serious and he said who was that old fella with your Jenna's nan in the kitchen, he said he had to lean round him to get a glass and everything...

Jenna He said like he had a grey suit jacket on and I texted me mum and said did your dad used to wear a grey suit jacket and she said yes with a jumper underneath

CB a maroon jumper... with a hole in the elbow....

LB Do you remember that Cath? ¹⁶

Laughter

CB Yes, and a flat cap, did he have a flat cap on?

Jenna I dunno, he said that he saw him twice and he had to go round him to get a glass and he was standing by the food table and he said when Jenna's nan went I thought he just went with Jenna's nan, I was a bit scared yes, but I would like to know if it was him ¹⁷

LB have you heard from your dad rob?

Rob No

LB Are you still doing that thing Cath?

CB What, the PhD?

LB Is that what it is? Your college thing?

Jenna She means your teaching

CB Oh, no, not at the moment, but I will be again next year

LB And what about that other thing you do, you know with the plays and that

CB Acting? Yes, I'm doing a thing in November

LB Not like that one with all the swearing (laughing a lot), do you remember that Rob, she was swearing her head off, don't know where she gets that from ¹⁸

Rob That was the one where she had to wear a barrel

CB It was a water butt, painted.

LB 'ere you go kids.... ¹⁹

Break in recording

LB I went to Scottie road, on a bus then I got a bus all round where I used to live

CB What, recently?

LB A few years ago

CB And had it changed

LB Yes it had all changed

CB Did you recognise any of it

LB It didn't go right up to where I... up to Heyward Street but it went all round where I used to know

CB Do you remember a street called Bright Street?

LB Erm, Oh Bright Street, yes, off Everton Road that wasn't it, a bit further down, I had a little mate who lived in Bright Street, or hang on... maybe it wasn't Bright Street... I can't remember now... but I think it was, all round by them little streets, yes. ²⁰

Break in recording

LB and do you know what? it shows you how the markets were before they opened the inside one Cath, I mean this is the old Scotland road

¹⁶ The coat that my nan's mum made her was navy blue with grey fur trim

¹⁷ My granddad died in 1983

¹⁸ A production of Female Transport by Steve Gooch at The Unity Theatre in Liverpool, 1991.

¹⁹ My nan gave Charlotte and Sammy £5 each, her winnings from the bingo. She also won a soap and moisturiser gift set which she gave to me.

²⁰ My nan didn't live at number 7 Amos Street. She couldn't remember which number she lived at and she didn't narrow it down to 7 or 9.

Break in recording

CB So when it was the war were you evacuated?

LB No well I was 14 wasn't I, I had to go to work ... in the cardboard box factory

CB How long were you there for?

LB til it got bombed out in 1940....

iPod battery ran out....

Epilogue

301009

I walked from Bright Street to all of the places highlighted on the map (the black and white map which shows the area in the 1930s). I walked to Amos Street first (or as close as possible to where I imagine it must have been, using Cochrane Street as a reference point) where my nan lived until she was 12 years old. It took 7 minutes at a dawdling pace and with a couple of stops; first to look at and answer Lena's text from the barge in Bristol, to take a photo of the Red Triangle Club²¹, and to check the map. I took a couple of photos of the gateposts that say Cochrane Street on them, but I haven't included them here because they don't say anything of the place.²² I walked to where Spurgeon Street would have been (-ish), and then on to Lorraine Street. In roughly the same place that my nan went to school and had her lessons on the roof when the weather was nice stands the newly built (still being built) North Liverpool Academy.²³

To Gary, Lena, Neal, Gabriel and Sid

Maybe, if you feel inclined, for Engels' first walk you could take him up to the bit of green near the Cochrane Street gateposts.....

²¹ I was hoping that this might have been the old Red Triangle Club but I looked at the Youtube footage again and I don't think it is.

²² My mum phoned while I was in the institute writing this. She called to ask how interviewing my nan had gone. She asked if I remembered my nan taking us over to Liverpool to see the Orange Lodge marches (in 1975, 1976, 1977). We'd then go up to Everton for a walk around her old haunts. I remembered the marching band, but not the trips to Everton. When I told my mum that I was writing up the interview in the institute ('the house we did Miss Julie in') she said, 'oh bloody 'ell, you're not going to be taking all the doors off again are you?' I said I wouldn't...

²³ <http://www.northliverpoolacademy.com/>

