

MBL 021**David Hodgson****Born and bred in Morecambe. He was a child in the 1950s.**

	David explains that although he was brought up in Morecambe he didn't go to the theatres in Morecambe. His parents went to the cinema and as a child he went to the Odeon on Saturday mornings. His Great Great Uncle built the Winter Gardens.
2m 9	He did go to watch Morecambe FC at Christie Park. He explains that the children sat on the grass next to the pitch. Morecambe played Leeds United on the occasion when they opened a new stand. The Leeds team stopped overnight and then went to Heysham Golf club. David went to the golf club to try and collect their autographs.
3m 40	David tells a story of sharing a dressing room with Cliff Richard at Lancaster University. He worked at Thorn Electric where Cliff also worked. Cliff was well known at the firm as a table tennis player.
6m 30	David talks of communities. Once each community around the Bay would light a fire for Guy Fawkes (he is hoping to recreate it for Remembrance Day commemorations). Cheap Street and Sun Street were cleared in the 1960s. His family house in Sun Street was compulsory purchased for phase one of the building of Arndale shopping centre. He describes the original 1960s plans for the Arndale Centre. At that point they 'took the heart out of Morecambe' and with demolition families were dispersed. He talks of people's reaction to compulsory purchase.
10m 11	His family moved from two up two down to a semi-detached off Broadway. He explains the connection between his teacher at Skerton and the house they bought. 'Everything interlinked in Morecambe.' They bought the new house in 1961.
12m 12	Many of the people were rehoused in council housing such as Christie Estate and Kingsway, Heysham. When his father bought their original house in Sun Street it only had cold water and no other amenities, but his dad and brothers used their professions to do up the house. If it wasn't for the shopping centre there would have been no need to demolish the houses. Talks of some of the people living in the houses.
14m 42	Talks of the gas works at the end of his street. He describes the sounds and workings of the gas works. Talks of imposing entrance to gas works on Market St but the entrance that people used was on Moss lane, now Central Drive.
15 m 41	On the corner of Sun St and Market St was a house that his Great Grandfather Sam had once owned but which had been sold to the British Legion. His Grandfather lived on Moss Lane (now opposite library). Also, at that time his family owned Wood Hill Farm and a dairy. His grandmother's uncle Thomas Baxter was a builder who built the Winter Gardens. He went bust in the process, but the family had stood guarantor, so they had lost the farm and dairy. Farm was sold to Alphans(?) Sam his great grandfather put £500 into Morecambe tower which also went bust. David says that things in Morecambe were 'two steps ahead of the market'.
18 m	He shares information that was told to him about Morecambe Tower and the plans for the tower. As a child he remembers that at the back of the tower were gardens styled on Indian designs along with an outdoor

	<p>stage. When it was demolished by Graysons everything was burnt including teak dance floor which had been mounted on springs. The floor meant that his deaf and dumb uncle could dance there. Once while giving a talk someone in crowd said that it had actually been him that had burnt the floor.</p>
22m 10	<p><i>Historical - Talks of early days of Poulton and building of a fish processing factory, but as only available market was Lancaster it went bust. Tom Baxter also built Grand Hotel. Each floor in hotel had floor and furniture of different standards. David talks of railways coming and fishing boats arriving. He explains that the area was agrarian and needed fish fertilisers. David believes that the Jersey potato originates from Morecambe and explains why. He talks about the sunken gardens in front of Town Hall being previously a pool. Sunderland Point developed faster than Morecambe. The arrival of the railways changed things and provided a direct link with Yorkshire.</i></p>
29 m	<p>Morecambe was once known as Bradford by sea. At one end of Queens street, the Palatine hotel, was once named the Leeds hotel and the Bradford Arms was at the other end. He talks about as a child in the 1950s enjoying touring holidays. People could not comprehend how far they had driven. Talks about people not needing to leave Morecambe. One summer his dad bought run around tickets for the train. On Sundays as a child they would go for a drive. When they went to Yorkshire all the traffic was coming the other way.</p>
33m 54	<p>Did the number of tourists become oppressive at all? He remembers on a Saturday so many tourists would arrive that they didn't have accommodation. He describes a van being driven around with a loud speaker asking if there were any spare beds. For 4 months during the summer the town not his own so even at junior school age he tended to jump on the train and go to Heysham Harbour or Carnforth. He was a train spotter. Anyone who could afford it bought children a summer pass for the Super Swimming Stadium.</p>
36m 35	<p>His mum's cousin Roy Woodhouse had the concession for the rowing boats on the promenade located next to the swimming stadium facing Northumberland St. David tells a story of himself and friend going to Heysham to steal an old ship life raft. There was a workshop there. It took them two days to get it back on a trolley. They put it in Roy's pool and the next day it had gone.</p>
38 14	<p>There were 2 fairgrounds one at the back of the Winter Gardens the other had started as 'Figure of 8'. At the time that the West End Pier was destroyed in a storm he was in the RNLI crew and his family ran a newsagents on Lancashire St. He talks about the night of the storm. He describes what he came across coming back in to Morecambe. The tide was coming in on each street either side of Lancashire St, which itself was dry. The newsagent's floor was coated in sand, but the electricity was still working. People came to use his phone. They thought that someone was trapped on West end pier because of a flashing light. In fact, it was a glitter ball. The following day all the arcade machines from the pier were on the beach. The army came as a training session to blow up remains of pier but failed.</p>
44m 30	<p>David talks about how he became interested in local history. He talks about starting a Morecambe local history group and attending local history courses at Lancaster University.</p>

49m 45	<p>He talks about Morecambe's lights and how visitors would come to Morecambe in the afternoon and then Blackpool lights in the evening. <i>Historical - Talks about how Morecambe and Blackpool drew different visitors. Talks of residential train and Mr Lister.</i> His dad once asked Mr Lister what he had in his briefcase – his sandwiches. Mrs Lister used to give his dad money to buy 1 tonne of coal every year which he had to distribute to the poorest people but only if they didn't ask where it had come from. David's grandfather, who died when David was 8, had been gassed in WW1. He went into the Bath Hotel every Friday and used to buy all the old soldiers a drink. He talks about the amount of money his great grandfather and grandfather left in their wills.</p>
57m 50	<p>David's great grandfather started as a servant. He inherited the farm. His great Uncle was a teacher near Preston. He thinks that as farmers they would take goods to Preston and bring coal back in cart so after losing the farm they became coal merchants. When David was a child his grandfather ran the office and his dad and uncle took out the coal wagon. David's dad had peritonitis, so didn't serve, his uncle Norman went into Belsen. His Uncle Norman at age 4 burnt his face. Their doctor, Dr Abernethy had trained at Edinburgh and they were experimenting with plastic surgery. Norman went to Edinburgh for 12 months and his grandfather would visit him every weekend on his motorbike. He talks of his father's operation for peritonitis as a child and effect on him. His grandfather was an early blood donor in 1918. He talks of his own jobs.</p>
	<p>Interviewed & summarised by Emma Aylett June 2018</p>