

MBL 022

John Murphy was born in 1948 on Walney Island. He talks about his impressions of Walney Island as a child. John Murphy is also a councillor and a former Barrow Mayor.

	John was born and raised on Walney Island. He describes his family circumstances – raised in austerity. Everything in his childhood was centred on the shipyard - he describes why. His 'playground' was Walney Island but he was told not to cross the bridge. John describes his childhood feelings of Walney and shares early memories of Walney – winking, cockling & mushroom picking
3m 20	John talks about shipbuilding and childhood memories of the ship yard. He describes launch days as a child. Talks of sadness once the ship had launched.
5m 47	There was a 7.25 buzzer to call workers to the ship yard. He remembers the workers walking to work en-mass and lots of bikes. He promised himself as a teenager that he wouldn't be part of that. He describes workers coming back for lunch and skills of the shipyard workers.
7 m 45	He talks of the freedoms of Walney and of the nature reserves – 'some of the best in the world'. He had freedom as a child with an unspecified time of return. He started doing guided walks because he had picked up a large amount of knowledge. John talks of aspects of nature which have become a tourist draw but as a child they were 'a way of life'.
10m 04	Everyone had the opportunity to live this lifestyle. As a child he particularly loved walking and he made his own bikes. He now takes people to Piel Island. As children everyone walked across to Piel Island. His sister thinks they have an inbuilt understanding of tides etc. His Piel walks allow other people to enjoy his sense of freedom. There is an abundance of samphire which he would eat as a vegetable as a child - now a luxury food. He talks of a proud heritage – different reality than image.
13m 55	He always had a sense of adventure. Walney Channel was like his Mississippi. At 16 he joined the merchant navy. He has been a councillor for 12 years and was Mayor of Barrow. John describes what he used the year of being the Mayor to do. Talks about instigating defibrillators in Barrow.
17m 22	He would have always come back to Walney Island. Talks of storms and love of watching the year develop.
18m 20	Relationship between Barrow and Walney when he was growing up? He talks about pupils coming from the town to his school. Snobbery in him that he is born and lives on an island.
19m 43	Greatest changes on Walney Island? He talks about the erosion. The number of house have increased which had some effects on the island. Factories in 50s and 60s were polluting the channel but now sea food is edible from channel. Peel sands are now immaculate.
22m 34	When you were younger how did people on Walney Island relate to the rest of the UK? He had cousins in Lancaster but that was 'end of the world for me'. Ulverston was a big day out. A yearly trip to Morecambe was unbelievable. So, a sense of isolation. Ice lolly in Lancaster was an ice block on Walney.
24m 21	He describes Walney Island.

26m	Loss of community? John talks about this. He talks about the world becoming grey compared to what it was.
28m 11	What inspired you to become a councillor? Talks about loving his community and how he can use his position.
29m 33	Privilege to become the Mayor (2012) and a great experience. He talks about being Mayor. Interview Interrupted
	interview and summary by Emma Aylett June 2018