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| **ÚnaGanAGúna** |  |
| **Interview Summary Sheet** | **Title Page** |
| **Ref No: 0UNA-U1X0001** | |
| **Collection Title:**  ÚnaGanAGúna Phase 1 |  |
| **Interviewee’s Surname**  Beecher (formerly Heaslip) | **Interviewee’s Title**  Mrs |
| **Interviewee’s First Name(s)**  Gillian | **Interviewee’s Gender**  Female |
| **Occupation**  Worked as a clerk in stockbroker’s office prior to marriage in 1968.  Housewife from marriage.  Kept accounts for husband’s business from 1970s. | **Interviewee’s Date of Birth**  23.03.1937 |
| **Mother’s occupation**  Housewife | **Father’s occupation**  Accountant |
|  |  |
| **Date(s) of recording** 13.02.2017 and 29.10.2017 | |
| **Location of interview:** Youghal and District Nursing Home, Gortroe, Youghal, Co. Cork, Ireland. | |
| **Name of interviewer:** Ruth Beecher (daughter) | |
| **Type of recorder** Marantz PMD660 | |
| **Total number of tracks**  2 | **Recording format**  Track 1: Wav seems to be 96Hz, 32 bit  Track 2: 48 kHz, 32 bit |
| **Mono or stereo** |  |
| **Total duration (HH:MM:SS)** |  |
| **Additional material (e.g. photos, documents)**  Photograph of Gillian Beecher with Salthill behind, August 1953.  Photograph of Gillian Beecher with her sister Jean to her right and her father Ned Heaslip behind her. Unknown woman and man to left and right of photograph, date unknown c 1946.  Photograph of Teddy (husband) and Gillian Beecher, date unknown c1970. | |
| **Copyright/ clearance**  Signed consent form. Additional email from Adam Beecher (son) indicating that the contents of the interview were in line with her views and what she would have shared pre-dementia (see note about dementia below). | |
| **Interviewer’s comments**  Mrs Beecher’s interviews were recorded in a nursing home in Cork in 2017. She had been diagnosed with vascular dementia in April 2016 and moved into the nursing home in November of that year. Her memory was starting to fail so there is some repetition and her sentences are shorter and less fluid than they had been. The content of her interviews, however, was not different to when she had previously recounted these memories.  0UNA-U1X0001XX-0001M0.WAV; 0UNA-U1X0001XX-0002M0.WAV | |

**[The interview on 13.02.2017** **begins with Mrs Beecher talking about her childhood home on the Ballinlough Road in Cork, Ireland].**

*Ruth: Was your house two-storey – Dalmally [house name]?*

Gill: It was built on, it started off as a bungalow with dormer— with room for extension, and expansion.

*Ruth: And they extended it? It had an upstairs by the time I was born—*

Gill: Yeah, dormer windows, they broke out the roof you know, to put the windows in and we had an almighty storm that night. I’ll never forget it.

*Ruth: Why? Were you young when they did that?*

Gill: I was— but I wasn’t the person— my mother was a very nervous person. I wasn’t the person who was really scared that night. She was terrified. It was awful.

*Ruth: What?*

Gill: She was so scared, of the wind, that the roof would blow off.

*Ruth: Oh yeah, but there was just holes in it, for the windows, is it?*

Gill: Yeah. It had been opened to put in the windows, the roof had been opened to put in the windows, so there would have been just a cover over it instead of a roof. She was in an awful state, I remember.

*Ruth: Was she nervous of weather like, or just nervous of everything?*

Gill: She was a bit yeah— everything, yeah.

*Ruth: Was she?*

Gill: Yeah, she was really, yeah. [Pause]. I don’t know because I don’t know much about her background like you know, she didn’t talk about home.

*Ruth: Did she talk about anything?*

Gill: No. There was just her mother and father at home, she’d no brothers or sisters.

*Ruth: She was an only child?*

Gill: Um. I think I probably met the parents when I was about a year old or something like that and that was— I never—

*Ruth: In London— when she took you on that trip to London?*

Gill: Um. Or was that after they died?

*Ruth: I don’t know, yeah. I remember you telling me like years ago that you had been. And that she was showing you like— oh this building was bombed and that building was bombed—*

Gill: Yeah, well we— Didn’t we— didn’t you and I go and look for the house one time?

*Ruth: No, we went to the grave—*

Gill: Yeah, well somebody when I was in London went—

*Ruth: — went to your granddad’s grave.*

Gill: Yeah but somebody— I went with somebody and looked at where the house was.

*Ruth: That was your mother, you said to me years ago.*

Gill: Oh, was it? Yeah.

*Ruth: You were like small but not two— like walk— a small child. Sure if you were two, it would have been the war. That was ’39.*

Gill: That’s right, it was. We went just when the war started—

*Ruth: After the war?*

Gill: No.

*Ruth: Oh, when it started you went?*

Gill: Just at the start of the war, yeah.

*Ruth: During the war. Why would you do that? Oh, because she was worried about them maybe.*

Gill: I don’t know. Who knows? I was only two so I wouldn’t have known.

*[Both talking at same time]*

Gill: But I remember being in the boat and being terrified.

*Ruth: I thought you went later than that. Do you remember being two?*

Gill: You just remember something horrifying, which was being in the boat. I mean boats weren’t exactly modernised then, were they?

*Ruth: No. I don’t know, I’d say not.*

Gill: They weren’t, they weren’t, no. It was like as if you went in a row boat now, you know what I mean, that much safety. [Laughs].

*Ruth: I don’t know when the Germans started bombing London—*

Gill: And eh—

*Ruth: —but you definitely said to me…*

Gill: Jean [her sister] and I went and looked for the house too at some stage, I think.

*Ruth: You and Jean together went to London?*

Gill: Well, Jean was over there working—

Ruth: Oh, but she wasn’t in London?

Gill: She was in Surrey. We went and looked at a few family places, if you know.

*Ruth: Oh really, I didn’t know you were ever that friendly?*

Gill: Ah we were, we got on alright. Just that she’s one of those people that if you don’t like the things she likes, you’re an idiot. In other words, if you don’t— aren’t enraptured by animals for instance, you’re a fool. And eh, if you do like clothes and things like that, you’re a fool.

*Ruth: She was pretty opinionated.*

Gill: Absolutely.

*Ruth: Was your mother like that?*

Gill: Not at all. She was [a] very, very, very retiring person.

*Ruth: Was she shy, like?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: Would she ever talk to you then about getting married or—?*

Gill: Nah. Never. Never talked about anything personal.

*Ruth: Going out? Would you go to dances and stuff when she was alive?*

Gill: Ahm, wait now, she died in 1958, I would have been 21, yeah.

*Ruth: You must have.*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: What age did you start going to dances?*

Gill: Oh, about eighteen or nineteen I suppose.

*Ruth: Really?*

Gill: Um. Socials. Church of Ireland. Our favourite was Brinny, do you know where Brinny is?

*Ruth: No.*

Gill: It’s down near Bandon.

*Ruth: B-R-I-N-N-Y.*

Gill: Yeah. And we used to— That was our favourite. I used to go with the [redacted]. Except Ethel didn’t go.

*Ruth: Yeah, she wasn’t into that kind of thing.*

Gill: Jean, Susan, and Margaret. Jean doing the driving.

*Ruth: Why was it your favourite?*

Gill: I probably met a few nice chaps there, you know now.

*Ruth: Why did Dad go there if he wasn’t even Church of Ireland? To socials?*

[00:05:02]

Gill: Dad, go where?

*Ruth: Why did Dad go to the church socials?*

Gill: He didn’t.

*Ruth: He— I thought he did. Where did you meet him then?*

Gill: Oh dad, sorry [laughs].

*Ruth: Oh, your dad, not your dad, my dad.*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: He did though?*

Gill: He had pals like, he was friendly with a couple of guys who were Protestants. Yeah, I met him in Christchurch, at a social in Christchurch in town.

*Ruth: Where’s Christchurch?*

Gill: It’s a gallery now, an art gallery down in South Main Street.

*Ruth: Triskell Arts? Go way, that’s where you met Dad?*

Gill: Yeah. Well the social mightn’t have been there, it might have been in a hall somewhere around there.

*Ruth: Oh yeah. But it was Christchurch social?*

Gill: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

*Ruth: Oh, so did he only go to the ones in town?*

Gill: Well he wasn’t supposed to be there because he wasn’t a Protestant, you were supposed to show— have identity.

*Ruth: [Laughs]. Were you, what did you show at the door?*

Gill: You see, this was,

*Ruth: Not your rosary beads anyway I suppose?*

Gill: No, this was trying to stop mixed marriages basically, I think.

*Ruth: Yes of course.*

*[pause]*

Gill: They were great though, the socials. Very relaxed.

*Ruth: Why were they great?*

Gill: They were very relaxed like, you know. And the— like going with the girls now to the country ones, you had the spin down, and you know, gossiping and catching up on the news and everything. We used to go to Bandon and the— Brinny was the best one down there, it was somewhere around about Upton direction.

*Ruth: Yeah, yeah.*

Gill: And, eh, we went on a couple a bit farther away but not many. The city ones weren’t that good.

*Ruth: Why were the country ones better?*

Gill: They were more relaxed and the fellas were better.

*Ruth: Oh yeah. I don’t know what more relaxed means, that’s like a code word. [laughs].*

Gill: That you felt comfortable and enjoying yourself.

*Ruth: Having a laugh. And did you all stand around the side like in the Edna O’Brien films?*

Gill: No, we sat down—

*Ruth: And then they’d come over and ask you to dance?*

Gill: —the fellas stood around.

*Ruth: And if you didn’t get asked to dance, would you be mortified or would you just—?*

Gill: You’d just— there weren’t enough fellas to go round anyway so.

*Ruth: And did you get any sausage supper or anything? [laughs].*

Gill: Yeah. Well, a supper, not necessarily sausage.

*Ruth: Nice.*

Gill: Yeah, there was supper.

*Ruth: Was it 10 to 2 or something or 9 to 12 or –?*

Gill: Something like that, yeah.

*Ruth: Early?*

Gill: Late. Two o’clock, I think. And you had to have your transport like.

*Ruth: So, who drove?*

Gill: Jean— Jean I think it was— was the driver. Jean [redacted].

*Ruth: And did they have any alcohol?*

Gill: No, they didn’t have any— I mean it was just a

Ruth: —dance.

Gill: — hand around—

*Ruth: Tea, or soft drinks?*

Gill: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

*Ruth: But they weren’t Baptist things, they were—*

Gill: Oh God R­­­uth, Baptists don’t dance.

*Ruth: But when was the Baptists so, when you were younger than that?*

Gill: Eh, no, it was the same time.

*Ruth: But you got more religious after that?*

Gill: I didn’t. I just— depended who I was with like.

*Ruth: Oh right. So, you were like just a fair-day Baptist like, when you felt like it.*

Gill: When I was converted you know, and I was baptised, as an adult.

*Ruth: I know but then you’re not supposed to dance or go to the cinema.*

Gill: No, you’re not.

*Ruth: But you did.*

Gill: I did.

*Ruth: Aah. Rule breaker.*

Gill: Some others did. And some didn’t.

*[00:08:29 Interruption about the tea, biscuits, nails, chocolate fountains, and ‘all that kind of caper.’ Editor was unable to cut for sentimental reasons as it is a lovely interlude. Please skip to 00:10:33 to return to the 1950s]*

*Ruth: So, your mother never talked to you about anything, like going to the dances or–?*

Gill: Well my mother was gone, sure my mother died when I was 21.

*Ruth: I know, but you said you starting going to the dances when you were eighteen or something.*

Gill: Ah yeah, but not that many.

*Ruth: So she never talked about anything personal?*

Gill: Not really, no.

*Ruth: Nothing that you can ever remember [indec]?*

Gill: Well I was with Ken White for a good while—

*Ruth: Ken White?*

Gill: Renee’s brother. Renee’s eldest brother.

*Ruth: David’s brother?*

Gill: David’s brother too, yeah. I was out with David first.

*Ruth: Was that when your mother was alive?*

Gill: It would have been, yeah. She died in ’58 when I was 21.

[Pause].

*Ruth: Did Grandad talk about anything personal?*

Gill: Grandad didn’t talk much at all.

*Ruth: Neither of them talked.*

Gill: Nothing personal at all.Not really no. I mean Mum and myself would have just chatted about this and that—

*Ruth: The cat or dinner or—?*

Gill: Or my job, something like that. People didn’t— weren’t as intimate with their family members. Some of them were, you know, I used to envy Ethel, her family being bigger.

*Ruth: What were the [redacted] close— close?*

Gill: They were and there were so many of them, you see. There was Hilda, Ethel was the eldest, and then there was Jim. Jim died fairly young, he worked in the [redacted] Hospital in the office.

*Ruth: I know, we went to see him there.*

Gill: Yeah. You what?

*Ruth: I remember we going to see him in there.*

Gill: Oh right.

*Ruth: But Jean worked in there as well, didn’t she?*

Gill: One of them did, yeah. And Hilda went away early, she went in the WRNS, joined the WRNS, that’s where she met Branco. And Jean was about the most down-to-earth type if you know what I mean and then Margaret was the youngest.

*Ruth: And Susan?*

Gill: Susan, yeah. I worked with Susan for quite a while. In [redacted] stockbrokers.

*Ruth: Did their— when did their parents die? I’m sure I remember her— the mother.*

Gill: Do you, yeah?

*Ruth: Maybe I don’t.*

Gill: I think they died fairly young.

*Ruth: I have got a memory of somebody older opening the door with the yappy dogs.*

Gill: Oh, the yappy dog, I remember that, yeah.

*Ruth: There was more than one, they’d about three.*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: They’d bite the hand off you.*

Gill: Oh they would, yeah.

*Ruth: They were vicious.*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: Pekinese or something, weren’t they? Yorkie, one yorkie and two Pekinese.*

Gill: Something like that, yeah. [Pause]. The parents were fairly strict as far as I can remember. Really, the only time I used to see them I remember them is they used to pick the girls up at school, at Rochelle. They’d be sitting in the car outside waiting like. Dad used to pick me up at lunchtime.

*Ruth: Oh yeah.*

Gill: My dad, not your dad obviously.

*Ruth: What? He’d pick you up in the car and bring you home for lunch? It was only around the corner.*

Gill: Yeah, well he was going to lunch anyway.

*Ruth: Oh, he drove home from the Mall every day, from the Grand Parade to go home for lunch. And he picked you up. Would he drop you back then to school?*

Gill: I didn’t have school in the afternoon.

*Ruth: Oh right.*

Gill: We had school until two o clock or something and that was it.

[00:14:14]

Gill: So we used to be a bit fed up at school because the boarders thought they were better than us. They kind of treated us like idiots—

*Ruth: They were rich though, weren't they?*

Gill: They were probably richer and they were independent, you see.

*Ruth: Ye were common.*

Gill: They weren't stuck at home.

*Ruth: Oh, yeah, yeah. They were independent, they could do all sorts of wild things—*

Gill: Stuck at home with the parents. Well they couldn't because they wouldn't have been allowed by the staff.

*Ruth: No but like they probably thought they were [inaud].*

Gill: Oh, independent yeah.

*Ruth: I would have hated to be a boarder.*

Gill: Yeah. So I was a bit disappointed when I wasn't made a prefect, seeing I'd been there since kindergarten. I know I wouldn't have been a very forceful person I suppose but maybe it would have helped me to be more forceful.

*Ruth: You’ve to be awful bossy to be a prefect, don’t you? Ours were all very bossy.*

Gill: Mmm. They weren't all bossy though, the people they made prefects. But then you never knew who— what parents knew teachers outside of school and that kind of thing—

*Ruth: Oh really. It was like that? It was that important to be a prefect?*

Gill: Well it was a snobby school, it was a snobby school like.

*Ruth: Yeah, I could never have been a prefect.*

Gill: Mmm. Then there was kind of a feeling of competition between us and grammar school, yeah.

*Ruth: What Bandon?*

Gill: No, Cork grammar school.

*Ruth: Where was that?*

Gill: Where your school was [Ashton].

*Ruth: Oh right, I thought they were all the same, I didn't know they'd amalgamated. I thought Ashton was just the future of Rochelle, sort of thing.*

Gill: No, it was the future of Rochelle and Grammar School.

*Ruth: Oh I didn’t know that. There was a Cork Grammar School and a Bandon Grammar School and Rochelle.*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: Jesus, you must have had a lot of 'Proddies' at one stage.*

Gill: Yeah, it died out [laughs].

*Ruth: Yeah.*

Gill: Because they were made sign a form saying their children would be brought up as Catholics.

*Ruth: Well only if they married one of the Catholics. If you'd keep marrying each other, you didn’t have had to sign anything.*

Gill: But they weren't enough of us going around you see— to go around.

*Ruth: Inbreds, like the Queen's family.*

Gill: Yeah. Actually I'd to go and see a [Catholic] priest before I married your dad and he was extremely nice.

*Ruth: The fella from Ballinlough Church,*

Gill: Umhm.

*Ruth: Yeah. He was kind of mortified I'd say was he?*

Gill: Well I don't know whether he was mortified or not but he was really, really nice about it, you know. Kind of about— you know, you had to promise to bring your kids up [Catholic] and all that kind of thing. He just made a good impression on me.

*Ruth: Well, he could have been horrible, I suppose.*

Gill: He could have. He could have tried to make me convert to Catholicism.

*Ruth: Oh, heaven forbid, mum.*

Gill: I'm telling you.

*Ruth: So who dumped who with the Ken [reacted] thing, so? Or did it just fizzle?*

Gill: It just fizzled out as far as I remember. Well Ken joined the RAF you see so— Yeah, so he was away, he was in Germany.

*Ruth: Oh, right. He joined the RAF?*

Gill: Yup.

*Ruth: Why was he joining? Was that peacetime?*

Gill: Because the— Germany— the RAF were in Germany.

*Ruth: To keep the peace like.*

Gill: I presume so. We used to write like, you know.

*Ruth: ‘37, ‘47, ‘57. So that would have been the end of the fifties.*

Gill: Umhm.

*Ruth: Was that when you were— That must have been when you were just about twenty so, was it? Under twenty, like before your mother died?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: And then you didn't meet dad for another ten, eight, nine years.*

Gill: I met him at a social [giggles].

*Ruth: Christchurch.*

Gill: Good place to meet a Catholic like.

*Ruth: At a church social for Protestants.*

Gill: Yeah, I think he knew the [redacted] girls.

*Ruth: [Redacted] girls were like— they were like something out of a tv programme— they looked like, didn’t they?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: With their headscarves and their— they looked like country girls.*

Gill: Yeah. I'd say their mum and dad were pretty strict. Excuse me. And then I was—

*Ruth: Jim never married either, did he?*

Gill: No.

*Ruth: And Ethel didn't marry until late.*

Gill: No. I was friendly with Ken [redacted].

*Ruth: His sister.*

Gill: Renee's brother. I was with him for a couple of years actually. He was in the RAF.

*Ruth: And then who did you go out with after that? Did you have a few years of not going out with anyone?*

Gill: Yeah. I used to go to the socials with the girls like and you know, you'd probably fall for somebody that didn't fall for you and—

[00:19:00]

*Ruth: Yeah, but also your mother died. That must have been traumatic.*

Gill: Sit there, waiting for them to come over and ask you to dance.

*Ruth: Yeah.*

Gill: Oh, it was, yeah. Well the most traumatic thing about my mum was that I couldn't talk— tell anyone.

*Ruth: Was it a secret?*

Gill: Mmm.

*Ruth: Really?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: What because it was shameful, she wouldn't have been allowed to be buried or something was it?*

Gill: Not that she wouldn't have been—

*Ruth: Or just the social—*

Gill: It wasn't— she would have been allowed to be buried as far as I know.

*Ruth: You couldn't be buried in a Catholic churchyard, could you? If you committed suicide, wasn't there something—*

Gill: Yeah but she wasn't a Catholic.

*Ruth: No, I know but I didn't know that it wasn't the case for the Protestants.*

Gill: No, I don't think— I don’t think it was. But I wasn't allowed tell my friends or anything. They knew anyway.

*Ruth: What did you have to tell them?*

Gill: They knew anyway.

*Ruth: What did you have to tell them?*

Gill: That my mother had killed herself.

*Ruth: No, but what— what did you have to tell them instead like, she'd what?*

Gill: She died suddenly.

*Ruth: She died suddenly, God.*

Gill: Which she did [laughs].

*Ruth: Everybody probably knew, it was Cork.*

Gill: They did. I found out afterwards that everybody'd guessed. It would have been so much more comforting to me if people had known and you know—

*Ruth: You could talk about it.*

Gill: Talk about it, exactly.

*Ruth: That’s horrible.*

Gill: Well I mean the neighbours must surely have known because you had to have the Guards [police] around to make sure there wasn't any foul play.

*Ruth: Foul play, yeah. God.*

Gill: Oh boy, that was a day, I can tell you.

*Ruth: But did she have any friends, Mum?*

Gill: She did, yeah. She used to go to Whist drives.

*Ruth: But she wasn't— she was still unhappy obviously.*

Gill: Well, I gather my father wasn't the easiest person to live with like. He was bossy type, I think.

*Ruth: Was he?*

Gill: Um.

*Ruth: Like what?*

Gill: A lot of people who appear to be quiet are actually bossy to their nearest and dearest.

*Ruth: What? That he wanted the house perfect or?*

Gill: No, I don't think so.

*Ruth: You must remember what it was like?*

Gill: Well I was only twenty-one when she went.

*Ruth: I can remember everything about our house.*

Gill: I don't know I remember more about other— my friends and things about them. And I was in the Girls' Brigade and I used—.

*Ruth: What age were you in the Girls' Brigade?*

Gill: Late teens. And I used to— on Sundays, I used to go to church about four times.

*Ruth: Oh Jesus.*

Gill: Yeah. Church. Like I was in the Baptist Church that time. And I used to go there on Sunday morning. Saturday night was prayer— there was a prayer meeting and then Sunday morning, church. And Sunday afternoon, another prayer meeting, and Sunday evening church. And Sunday evening after church, the YMCA had a meeting, down in Marlborough Street.

*Ruth: And did you go to all of those with your friends?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: Different ones or were they all as lunatic religious as you?*

Gill: Lunatic-y. Yeah.

*Ruth: Is this all the Baptist stuff?*

Gill: Mmm, not necessarily.

*Ruth: Jesus, no normal person that isn't a Baptist goes to church four times in one day plus the night before.*

Gill: You'd be surprised.

*Ruth: [Laughs]. I would be surprised. Mind you, [redacted] he’s a Jehovah's Witness, they go for like—*

Gill: Everything.

*Ruth: — days. They have retreats, they go for days.*

Gill: Yerra, it didn't do me any harm.

*Ruth: No, and I suppose you had a nice network of people you knew through that, caring people as well. But you kind of gave it up then.*

Gill: I did. Well I went back to going to the dances with the girls and that, with the O'Haras. I think Ethel probably arranged that for me like, you know.

*Ruth: When did you become friendly with Ethel?*

Gill: In school.

*Ruth: Oh. In school, but she didn't go to the dances?*

Gill: No.

*Ruth: She just didn't like it?*

Gill: Ethel's a very reserved person. Pat suited her down to the ground. And she knew Pat, she knew Pat for years because he was married to Avril's, a relation of Avril's.

*Ruth: Ah.*

Gill: Avril was another of Ethel's best friends like, you know, she was her best friend before me even. And— So he was— and apparently there was a bit of matchmaking went on then [laughs].

*Ruth: What with the friends? With her friends? When she was older like?*

Gill: To get her hooked up with Pat. After his wife died, yeah.

[End of first recording at 00:23:43].

**[This second interview was recorded on 29.10.2017, begins at 00:23:46].**

*Ruth: So I'm recording now Mum.*

Gill: Yes.

*Ruth: So anything you can tell us about your experiences from age fifteen to twenty nine. You can start at school, work, boyfriends.*

Gill: I think I finished school at seventeen.

*Ruth: Did you? I finished at sixteen.*

Gill: And that was repeating one year’s because I was too young.

*Ruth: Umhm.*

Gill: Because I— I started at Rochelle in kindergarten at six. And I moved up a year all the time. So, I was too young really by the time I got to upper four.

*Ruth: Yeah.*

Gill: So they kept me back a year, which was very annoying because it meant I was doing a two year course in a year if you know what I mean, for the leaving.

*Ruth: What age was that? Fifteen?*

Gill: Yeah. And it meant that you had different—

*Ruth: Curriculum.*

Gill: You had to learn it all off again.

*Ruth: Yeah.*

Gill: And as well as that all your friends moved on and you didn't.

*Ruth: Umhm.*

Gill: So that was not a good choice, I felt either from the school.

*Ruth: Did you enjoy being at school?*

Gill: Yeah, I did really, mostly.

*Ruth: Umhm.*

Gill: We had a couple of domineering teachers but most of them were okay. I can't think of anything much— detail about it like. It was fairly strict at that time.

*Ruth: In what way?*

Gill: Oh. What you wore and you had your—. Uniform.

*Ruth: Was it bottle green?*

Gill: Yeah. Bottle green, tunic.

*Ruth: Hairy?*

Gill: Huh? No. And you had a tie, with kind of green and red and— yeah, green and red mixture I think. You had to wear a kind of normal pair of shoes rather than anything glamorous or yeah— But yerra I enjoyed school up to— I did my Inter[mediate] Cert and then as I say, I was kept back and I had to do it again which wasn't good because that meant learning— doing a two year course in a year.

*Ruth: So what year was that, do you remember?*

Gill: Ah. No, I don't. I don’t, I've no way of doing that now, unless I saw my certificate [laughs]. As far as I—

*Ruth: Fifteen— ‘37, ’47, ’52, I'd say.*

Gill: About that, yeah.

*Ruth: Yeah, imagine.*

Gill: I've an idea— I really don't know now whether I did the exam the second time or did I get sick at that time. I had scarlet fever at some stage, which is pretty bad.

*Ruth: Were you off school?*

Gill: Oh yeah, obviously, it’s very catching. Scarlet fever, it’s very dangerous and very— you get vaccinated now I think.

*Ruth: Yeah. I don't know, it’s like one you never hear about now.*

Gill: That's because they've managed it, yeah.

*Ruth: But Ailsa did have it when she was a kid.*

Gill: Yeah. It’s very, very severe temperature and all that kind of stuff. And I was supposed to do my Inter Cert again and I didn't in the end, I can’t remember why. I think I was sick or something. But having got honours in the first one, I wasn't too keen on having to repeat it.

*Ruth: Did you do your Leaving [Certificate]?*

Gill: I did my leaving yeah.

[00:27:45]

*Ruth: And who— did you make friends at school?*

Gill: Yes. I used to be friendly with a girl called Jean Warner. And she lived up in Pic-Du-Jer Park. And, then when I was kept back, I had to start on the friend thing all over again. Because you know the older ones didn't want to be associated with the younger ones. But I had Anne McDonald I was friendly with then, she was from Glanmire. And she was in Girls' Brigade and so was I.

*Ruth: Was she a boarder?*

Gill: No, day pupil. And—

*Ruth: When did you go in the day?*

Gill: No, in the evening, in the afternoon.

*Ruth: Once a week?*

Gill: I think it was yeah. I think it was on a Thursday evening. But the boarders considered themselves highly, much more important and intelligent and everything than day pupils.

*Ruth: Um.*

Gill: Yeah. And there were like boarding boarders the whole time and there were weekly boarders then that went home at the weekend.

*Ruth: They stuck to themselves, did they?*

Gill: Very much so. They were superior beings.

*Ruth: Oh.*

Gill: Yep. I mean they weren't living at home with family and stuff like that. [laughs]. So the teachers then. When I started in Rochelle, they were all pretty old. So we had change of teachers kind of mid time in the thing, which wasn't a great help because naturally the younger ones coming on had different ideas. We used to have a history teacher called Miss Smith and she made it amazingly interesting, history. You know she got it into our heads, I don't know how she did it.

*Ruth: Yeah.*

Gill: And then when she left, she retired, she was very old, I mean old, she wouldn't have been still there these days.

*Ruth: She was in her seventies or something, is it? [Laughs].*

Gill: At least. I'm not sure that she hadn't started the eighties.

*Ruth: Go way.*

Gill: But then we got a fresh from college, Miss Hope, and she had a totally different attitude to the whole thing. You know, you had to make history really formal and know all the dates, excuse me, and she wouldn't dream of having a story like Miss Smith used to have to make you remember. Yeah. And that year that she retired, we also got a new gym teacher who was— nearly killed us all with the energetic type of thing compared to the one before [laughs]. Yeah, there was a lot of changes really because the teachers, there was a belt of old— really should have been retired already, you know. Even the headmistress was old. But as against that the teachers’ part of it had a much better way of getting things into your head and sticking them, you know.

*Ruth: Yeah. And was Jean still at home then when you were in Rochelle?*

Gill: She was, yeah. Most of the time.

*Ruth: And how old was she when she left home?*

Gill: Oh, she was in her early twenties I'd say at the most.

*Ruth: She must have been there—*

Gill: She went to Gorteen College first.

*Ruth: How many years older is she?*

Gill: Five and a half, I think.

*Ruth: Ok so if you were at school until seventeen, she'd have been gone at the end of your schooling.*

Gill: Well she didn't—

*Ruth: Where did she go?*

Gill: Gorteen College, it's an agricultural college in Tipperary. And she— she wasn't a bit interested in school like, you know, so it was just as well she left. She didn't do her Leaving Cert. And eh— she left and she used to just come home occasionally then.

[00:32:00]

*Ruth: Oh, she was away at college?*

Gill: She was at Gorteen College, yeah, and then she got a job up in the— somewhere up in that area, on a farm.

*Ruth: As a hand like?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: It must have been heavy work.*

Gill: Yeah. I think it was a dairy farm as far as I remember. And then she went to England to work, Surrey.

*Ruth: And what year was that, do you know?*

Gill: No.

*Ruth: Do you remember what age you were?*

Gill: I suppose I would have been late teens.

*Ruth: Were you still at school?*

Gill: I think I was but I mean you know it was such a long time ago.

*Ruth: And what year did your mother die?*

Gill: She used to write, she used to write to me.

*Ruth: Was Jean in England when your mum died?*

Gill: I think so but I don't know.

*Ruth: What year was that '58?*

Gill: '58, was it?

*Ruth: Okay, so that was a bit later then.*

Gill: Yeah, I was 21, isn't it? Yeah.

*Ruth: Yeah. So what did you—? So left with— you got your leaving cert? And then what happened?*

Gill: And then I went to secretarial school in town.

*Ruth: Oh, right.*

Gill: In— it was on the Grand Parade. And did— learn shorthand and typing and that, I was always keen on that. Like my dad had— was an accountant, and he had an office on the Mall opposite the Imperial Hotel and I used to go in there quite a lot. So I definitely liked the office-type work.

*Ruth: Mmhm.*

Gill: So I went to, I can't remember the name of the college now, it wasn't Skerries. Skerries was next door to dad's office. But anyway I went somewhere and did the shorthand and typing, yeah.

*Ruth: And how did you get the job then in [redacted]?*

Gill: It was advertised as far as I remember, or maybe they asked the school to send someone for an interview. So I went there and I had one boss who was—

*Ruth: Was that your first job?*

Gill: Yeah. I might— I think I had a temporary job in the summer or something and it was— Oh yeah, I was in Lunhams.

*Ruth: Was that a bakery?*

Gill: No, unless you thought baked ham. [Editor’s note: Lunham’s was a bacon curing factory on Kemp Street, Cork; now demolished and Kemp street no longer exists].

*Ruth: Oh, hams.*

Gill: Yeah. The boss in there treated me like a servant rather than a shorthand typist who graduated from [laughs].

*Ruth: Like what, how?*

Gill: Bossing me around and getting me do trivial jobs and—

*Ruth: Cups of tea and—*

Gill: Yeah, that type of thing. Exactly.

*Ruth: Did you get to do any shorthand and typing?*

Gill: Very little.

*Ruth: [Laughs].*

Gill: Send me down to the floor below to get this and that and then it was all men down there and they used to be mocking us, you know, and we'd walk— have to walk down past them all.

*Ruth: Were there many women in the office?*

Gill: Yeah. Quite a few.

*Ruth: Like ten? Or?*

Gill: I don't know, about six probably. I think but I can't remember that part of it.

*Ruth: And what did you have to wear to work mum?*

Gill: Anything, we weren't told to wear anything.

*Ruth: Skirt?*

Gill: Yeah.

Ruth: *Skirt and shoes?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: So you were still pretty smart compared to nowadays?*

Gill: Oh yeah.

*Ruth: You wouldn't be wearing trousers.*

Gill: No, definitely no trousers [laughs].

*Ruth: A blouse or a dress?*

Gill: Blouse.

*Ruth: Blouse and skirt.*

Gill: Mm.

*Ruth: Court shoes.*

Gill: They didn't actually say but I think at that stage, I used to wear mostly kind of laced shoes or something comfortable to spend a day in.

*Ruth: Brogues, kind of thing?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: Got you. You'd be quite fashionable now really [inaud]*

Gill: Yeah [laughs].

*Ruth: And so you went to Lunham’s for the part time job and then you got the job in [redacted]?*

Gill: Yeah. Lunhams was on the South Terrace and the boss there treated us like dirt.

*Ruth: Yeah, messengers.*

Gill: Yeah, and eh, so I— then I went to [redacted] and they were the same attitude like. They ticked me off one day over something and I said— when the customer— client, excuse me, [left], I said, “I didn't do that, you did that” and he said, “oh but it would have looked bad.”

*Ruth: Oh, you said— after the customer went, is it?*

Gill: Yeah. I said, “you did that, not me.” Mistake made like. And he said that would look bad. And like when I first went to [redacted], Mr [redacted] was still alive, he was 92 or something and—

*Ruth: Oh my God.*

Gill: He was a perfect gentleman. And good at his work, quite sound in—

*Ruth: — mind.*

Gill: —mind and body. And the other fellow was—

*Ruth: Who, [redacted]?*

Gill: No, there was no [redacted] there by then?

*Ruth: Oh, there was no [redacted]?*

*\*Gill: No.

*Ruth: Just [redacted]?*

Gill: No, not [redacted]. I forget what it was. Maybe it was Mr [redacted]. Anyway [redacted] was the other chap. And he was young.

[00:36:49]

*Ruth: Were they— What did they do? Stockbrokers?*

Gill: Stockbroking. [Redacted] was young and bossy, you know, it was his—

*Ruth: When you say young like, you were —*

Gill: He would have been in his thirties.

*Ruth: — you were eighteen or nineteen?*

Gill: He would have been in his thirties at the most.

*Ruth: — and you were nineteen, say?*

Gill: Yeah, exactly. And he treated us like servants.

*Ruth: That's so funny, I always thought he was about sixty whenever you talked about him.*

Gill: Did you?

*Ruth: For the last thirty years, I've been thinking about a fat, bald, sixty-year-old.*

Gill: No, he was quite good looking actually.

*Ruth: And not you’re telling me he was thirty and good looking, but he was not— ?*

Gill: And he had a young family like, you know. I'm just trying to think of their names now. He was the sort as I probably told you before like, he made a mistake and he told the customer it was me.

*Ruth: Yeah.*

Gill: And when the customer was gone, I said, “I didn't do that, you did it” and he said, “oh it would have looked bad, it would have looked bad.” [Laughs].

*Ruth: What did you do there?*

Gill: Shorthand or typing, shorthand and typing.

*Ruth: But what was it like? What would you be typing?*

Gill: Stockbroking— stocks and shares like. Making— typing out contracts for the stockbroking. And on top of that, we had a rent— some rents we used to collect for people— agents like for rents.

*Ruth: On buildings and such like?*

Gill: Eh yeah. Or terraced houses, that kind of thing.

*Ruth: But I liked the work like it was interesting.* *How long did you stay there?*

Gill: And Mr— but it was better when Mr [redacted] was still there because as I say he was 92 or something and he was a perfect gentleman and eh I stayed there twelve years, I think.

*Ruth: Twelve years. And was Mr Montfort still there then?*

Gill: De Montfort, please.

*Ruth: [Redacted].*

Gill: No, he took on a partner, [redacted]—

*Ruth: Oh right.*

Gill: — who allowed himself to be the underdog like, you know. You'd feel like saying, “don't let him tell you what to do.” He was eh— they were both Protestants you see, so they were kind of posh.

*Ruth: Yeah, like yourself.*

Gill: Like meself. And then who was working there with me? That I got friendly with? Anyway, they took on a second girl like, second secretary.

*Ruth: Oh, you were the only one first is it?*

Gill: At first, yeah.

*Ruth: Yeah. So it was very small?*

Gill: Oh yeah. If you saw the—

*Ruth: And where was the office?*

Gill: It's now the Imperial.

*Ruth: It's in the Imperial?*

Gill: Like, do you know, you know— picture the Imperial now.

*Ruth: From the front?*

Gill: From the front. And if you look down that way, Morrow's stockbrokers was in the next building past the Imperial.

*Ruth: Towards the Grand Parade?*

Gill: Yeah. And ours was in between Morrow’s and the Imperial. Just a kind of a slice, do you know¿

*Ruth: And is it gone now?*

Gill: Oh, it's all part of the Imperial now. It was like— there was a front office where Mr [redacted] worked.

*Ruth: Who was he?*

Gill: He was the—

*Ruth: — clerk.*

Gill: A clerk, yeah. And I had a desk at the end of his office, it was tiny like. And then there was a glass partition. But only there— not there like, there was paths down there, and the bosses were in there. And the customers went in there too. [Gesturing the layout].

*Ruth: Ah, right.*

Gill: And it was a bit awkward one day because somebody collapsed.

*Ruth: In behind the glass [laughs]?*

Gill: Yeah, I thought they were dead.

*Ruth: A customer, oh my God.*

Gill: Yeah. Another day I thought somebody was passed out and they were actually asleep.

*Ruth: A customer?*

Gill: No, one of the bosses, he was very old.

*Ruth: [laughs]. And so did you stay there until you got married?*

Gill: I did. I liked the work, you see, stockbroking is interesting.

*Ruth: Did you go out to lunch every day?*

Gill: Yeah. I used to meet Ethel a lot. Ethel worked in Montgomery's.

*Ruth: Was that on the Mall?*

Gill: Yeah. And my dad's office was directly opposite.

*[00:41:01]*

*Ruth: Was Ethel in a stockbroker too?*

Gill: No, no, in an estate agent type place. I think when she first went, they were in Prince’s Street and then they moved on to the Mall.

*Ruth: Was she a secretary? Or an estate agent?*

Gill: Yeah. No, secretary type.

*Ruth: Were all the estate agents men?*

Gill: No, I wouldn't say by then, I'd say they weren't.

*Ruth: Late fifties we are now, are we?*

Gill: Yeah, I started in fifty-six.

*Ruth: In [redacted]?*

Gill: Yeah, and I was there until sixty-eight when I went off with my charming—

*Ruth: Husband.*

Gill: Fella.

*Ruth: You had to give up work?*

Gill: No, I didn't give up work until I got pregnant.

*Ruth: Ah, you got married, you were allowed to be married and work then. But once you had a baby, you weren't allowed to work, was it?*

Gill: I could have, I think I tried it for a while [?] but it was too complicated.

*Ruth: You told me before that you weren't allowed to work if you had a baby.*

Gill: Mmm. It would depend totally on the employers.

*Ruth: Who would have looked after the baby?*

Gill: One of the family, that's what all the Beechers were for.

*Ruth: Oh really. Did they look after me?*

Gill: They did sometimes but I mean one of them would have taken you on if necessary. Or you can get a nursery.

*Ruth: Really, in the sixties?*

Gill: Yeah. I'd say it probably started around then. But Mr [redacted] then died like, he was ninety something. And there was just [redacted] became partners with him then.

*Ruth: So were you doing a line when you were in [redacted]? I mean before dad when you were in your early twenties?*

Gill: I don't remember really, I used to go out with Ethel and some other girls a lot.

*Ruth: So who were your boyfriends before dad?*

Gill: I didn't really have anyone in particular.

Gill: No.

*Ruth: What about Jacob somebody? Somebody Jacob?*

Gill: No, Brian Jacob. That was more of a crush than anything. I didn't go out with him.

*Ruth: Oh.*

Gill: I just got on very well with him when I met him at something. I think he was— I think his family were friendly with my uncle's family or something like that.

*Ruth: And— somebody's brother?*

Gill: Oh yeah, David. Oh yeah, well David. I went out briefly—This is Renee [redacted], eh Renee— whatever her name is now I can't think— Renee's in a England now and we keep in touch a bit. But she has three or four girls so she is kept busy because they're— I don't think they live that near her.

*Ruth: Did you go out with her brother?*

Gill: Yeah, I went out with both her brothers.

*Ruth: Both of them?*

Gill: Yeah, the younger one I went out with first. But then I went out with Ken who was the older one. And David is married to Avril [redacted] who is— Ethel and Avril were friends. And so you've probably heard me talk about vril. And eh, they got married and Ken went to England to work and that, and he stayed there.

*Ruth: So when you say you went out with them, what would that be like?*

Gill: Church meetings and things like that, youth meeting at the Church.

*Ruth: How would you know if you were going out with someone if you know what I mean?*

Gill: How would you not know?

*Ruth: Did they ask you on a date?*

Gill: Not a date exactly but they might sort of walk you home from something.

*Ruth: Ah, they'd walk you home.*

Gill: Yeah. Well I had a kind of a double life then because I was very involved with the Baptist church but I also went to dances with Ethel's family— sisters, and dancing wasn't approved of by the Baptist church. So I had two lives.

*Ruth: So how long did you go out with Ken?*

Gill: A couple of years.

*Ruth: Mm. Was it serious?*

Gill: Yeah it was really I suppose. We were still young like.

*Ruth: What happened?*

Gill: Well, he was in England and I was over here.

*Ruth: He went to England then was it?*

Gill: Yeah, he was working in England yeah.

*Ruth: What did he do?*

Gill: Don't know, can't remember.

*Ruth: Mm.*

Gill: Ken or— David then, his brother, is married to Avril, Ethel and my friend.

*Ruth: Yeah. And did— was dad your first serious boyfriend then, or was it Ken?*

Gill: I suppose Ken was, um.

*Ruth: Yeah. But then Ken went and you had a few years without a boyfriend.*

Gill: Yeah. I can't remember the exact timing of it like. Well I got married in 1968, wasn't it?

*Ruth: Yeah, February.*

Gill: So it would have been a couple of years. I think I was, maybe a couple of years that I wasn't going out with anyone. But then I used to go to the Church of Ireland socials with Ethel's sisters. Ethel didn't bother but Susan and Margaret and Jean used to go. So I used to go with them because Jean drove.

*Ruth: Yeah.*

Gill: And eh, we used to go to socials, Church of Ireland socials as they were called, in Brinny, which is down near Bandon. And Bandon and Dunmanway and Christchurch in town. We used to go every Friday dancing.

*Ruth: Yeah.*

Gill: I used to go to—

[00:46:39]

*Ruth: Did you still go when your mum died or did you stay at home for—?*

Gill: No, I didn't.

*Ruth: You didn't stay at home.*

Gill: You weren't expected to like.

*Ruth: Yeah. No, I wasn't criticising, I was just wondering if you had— if things changed if you like?*

Gill: Well, they did but not much really.

*Ruth: You just got on with things?*

Gill: Mm. Well I mean it was an awful time because I wasn't allowed tell anyone what had happened.

*Ruth: That she killed herself.*

Gill: She was supposed to have just died. Gone to bed like and not got up again. Which wasn't a great help as you can imagine. Because it was I found her. I got out of the car at home at lunchtime and walked up the back path and looked in the window.

*Ruth: Was it you and dad— you and granddad?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: You'd been to church, had you?*

Gill: No, we were at work. It was lunchtime.

*Ruth: Oh I thought it was a Sunday.*

Gill: No, it was lunchtime.

*Ruth: On a weekday?*

Gill: On a weekday. And he used to— we used to go home at that time for lunch. And I walked up the back path and there she was.

*Ruth: She must have known that you'd be coming home for lunch?*

Gill: Mm. She left a note on the kitchen table.

*Ruth: What did the note say?*

Gill: I can't remember Ruth, I probably put it out of my mind directly. Intentionally I mean.

*Ruth: Do you think granddad was shocked Mum or do you think he—?*

Gill: He was.

*Ruth: He was shocked?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: Do you think he had any inkling that she might have—?*

*[hissing noise on recording]*

Gill: He might have because I think somebody else in her family had done it previously. She didn't have any brothers and sisters but somebody in the family had.

*Ruth: But you wouldn't have had a clue.*

Gill: She left a note but I don't know what it said, I can't remember, I probably didn't want to.

*Ruth: You wouldn't have expected it, he might have.*

Gill: I didn't. I had no expectation whatsoever of it. And I was told I mustn't tell anyone like, it was a shame.

*Ruth: By granddad, you mean.*

Gill: Yeah. Well the family in general.

*Ruth: Who's the family? His family you mean.*

Gill: No, my family.

*Ruth: But who, who else was there?*

Gill: Jean.

*Ruth: Oh Jean, your sister.*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: But where was she? Was she away?*

Gill: England. In Surrey.

*Ruth: She came back for the funeral?*

Gill: Yeah. But like I found out from Ethel and that afterwards that people guessed.

*Ruth: Of course. That's for sure. Well I doubt— I just— well, yeah, it would be hard to—*

Gill: Mm.

*Ruth: And did Jean go straight back to England then after that?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: Leaving you and Granddad?*

Gill: Lutine farm, Bagshot, Surrey.

*Ruth: Bagshot.*

Gill: Mmm. Yeah.

*Ruth: And was granddad devastated?*

Gill: Yeah, he was. I think he might have half expected it somehow. Maybe she'd threatened it before or something.

*Ruth: Yeah, because they were quite close, weren't they?*

Gill: They were, yeah.

*Ruth: In a kind of a—*

Gill: But he was a bossy man like.

*Ruth: Oh was he?*

Gill: Mm.

*Ruth: What do you mean?*

Gill: Set ideas, you know.

*Ruth: Controlling do you mean, when you say “bossy”?*

Gill: Yeah, yeah.

*Ruth: What, do you think he was hard to live with?*

Gill: I'd say so. But I think she— there was a history in her family of it. But it was very hard not being able to tell anyone but Ethel told me afterwards that people guessed.

*Ruth: Was that the hardest thing about it?*

Gill: It was, yeah.

*Ruth: Did you miss her though at home, around the house?*

Gill: Course we did, yeah.

*Ruth: Did you take care of granddad then or was he self-caring?*

Gill: He was.

*Ruth: He was self— he took care of himself?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: But had— had granny done everything before she died? Did she cook and—*

Gill: She did, yeah. But he was always helpful enough like.

*Ruth: Was he, yeah?*

Gill: Mm.

*Ruth: He took over after that I suppose.*

Gill: I think she had a history of— her family had a history of suicide.

*Ruth: Mmhm..*

[pause]

*Ruth: It was sad though.*

Gill: Oh yeah. But the saddest part was not being able to talk about it, which was stupid.

*Ruth: That wouldn't happen so much now.*

Gill: No. As I say, Ethel told me after that everybody had guessed anyway.

*Ruth: Everyone had guessed.*

Gill: Mm. Well sure, you know how she met Dad, do you? My Dad I mean.

*Ruth: Who?*

Gill: Mum. My mum.

*Ruth: No.*

Gill: Yeah, he was in the English navy briefly and his friend was Ernie Evans and mum's best friend was Ernie's wife.

*Ruth: Beila.*

Gill: Yeah, Beila. Oh, you've a good memory.

*Ruth: So Ernie was in the Navy with granddad.*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: And then Ernie's wife was your mum's best friend.*

Gill: That's right.

*Ruth: Did he go off on a ship in the Navy?*

Gill: I suppose he did, yeah, he didn't talk about it much.

*Ruth: Was it in the war or— ?*

Gill: It would have been I suppose yeah.

*Ruth: Yeah, imagine.*

Gill: Well the war ended in 1943, didn't it?

*Ruth: 1945.*

Gill: Five. Mm.

*Ruth: So you were eight.*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: Actually, maybe it was pre-war then was it? Would he have gone to [inaud]*

Gill: I don't know really.

*Ruth`; Yeah, it's hard to know.*

Gill: Mm.

*Ruth: You could find that out I'd say online.*

Gill: Mm.

*Ruth: I thought somebody'd been in the Navy or the Army. I thought you did say something about that.*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: Did you say something about Croydon or— Did they get married in Croydon or?*

Gill: They probably did. Beckenham, Beckenham I think.

*Ruth: Somebody lived in Beckenham, Beila lived in Beckenham.*

Gill: Beckenham, yeah.

*Ruth: I think they might have got married in Croydon for some reason. Maybe we found that out when we went to see your mother's— . I think Jean wrote a letter around the time that we went to see your granddad's grave.*

Gill: Yeah, yeah.

*Ruth: With some information that she found out but I don't know what happened to that letter.*

Gill: Well she was in touch with Pamela [redacted], I think.

*Ruth: Who was that?*

Gill: Uncle Ernie's daughter.

*Ruth: Mm. Excuse me.*

[00:53:21]

Gill: But it was a long time ago.

*Ruth: A long time ago. Eighty years or something is it? Yeah, cos you're 80 so it was 80 years ago if it was before you were born, we don't really know. Yeah, must have been quite weird for your mum like upping and moving to Cork, from London?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: How weird is that?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: It would be like you taking Sean to Cork now [speaking to Alice, Ruth’s daughter, Gill’s granddaughter about her Australian boyfriend]. Only they didn't have such an outgoing time, did they? They were kind of— well they played tennis and— Was your mother into the Church?*

Gill: She was when she was younger, I think, yeah.

*Ruth: But not when you were born?*

Gill: Well, she used to go to church every Sunday. St Nicholas.

*Ruth: Where's that?*

Gill: Down the quay, Sullivan's Quay. It's behind that—

*Ruth: Is that still there?*

Gill: Yeah. Well, do you know the— do you know the garage on Sullivan's Quay?

*Ruth: Yeah.*

Gill: Well, it's the— there's a left-hand turn just before that and if you go up that turn, the gate of the church is directly across the road. And the church is up the slope then, it’s —

*Ruth: Very near the cathedral?*

Gill: Yeah, St Nicholas Church.

*Ruth: Imagine having a cathedral so near a church, like within five minutes of each other.*

Gill: Don’t know, yeah.

*Ruth: So she went in there every Sunday. Did grandad go to church then?*

Gill: We went to— No, grandad wasn't— he was taken to church at Christmas.

*Ruth: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.*

Gill: No, he didn't go to church at all.

*Ruth: Oh.*

Gill: We used to go to St Nicholas and I forget whether it closed first or whether it was— Mum and I used to go to St John's which was opposite the Victoria Hospital.

*Ruth: That's gone though?*

Gill: St John's?

*Ruth: Yeah.*

Gill: It's something else like.

*Ruth: Like a hospital, another hospital or something.*

Gill: That's right, yeah.

*Ruth: Like a private hospital.*

Gill: Yeah, well that's where we used to go, mum and myself.

*Ruth: By the Victoria, where Jim [redacted] used to work?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: Your mum and you used to go there?*

Gill: Um.

*Ruth: Were they all just Church of Ireland is it?*

Gill: Yeah, Dad didn't go to church, except at Christmas and he used to sing out of tune, which was a bit annoying.

*Ruth: And then you married a man who was exactly the same?*

Gill: How do you mean “exactly the same”?

*Ruth: With the singing.*

Gill: Oh right, [laughs]. Oh— Oh Dad was much worse than that.

*Ruth: Was he? Worse than my Dad?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: Oh God. That's bad.*

Gill: So, I got into the Baptist church then through Jean Warner.

*Ruth: At school?*

Gill: Mm. No, I don't know whether it was before—

*Ruth: You kept up with her after school then?*

Gill: Yeah, well, she lived up in Pic-Du-Ger park.

*Ruth: So, she took you along to the Baptist thing?*

Gill: I suppose so, yeah. There was a youth meeting on Tuesday nights, I think it was.

*Ruth: Oh right.*

Gill: Gospel type meeting like.

*Ruth: Yeah. I say yeah, I've no idea what—*

Gill: Sing a few hymns, have a kind of a mini sermon. [Laughs].

*Ruth: Biscuits?*

Gill: Nope.

*Ruth: Were biscuits frowned upon as well?[Laughs].*

Gill: No. We just had— It was hard enough for people to get there when they'd homework and stuff to cope with at home.

*Ruth: So it wasn't long?*

Gill: It was an hour, one night a week. And then I joined the Baptist Church and I got baptised.

*Ruth: In the big thing?*

Gill: Total immersion, yeah.

*Ruth: What age was that?*

Gill: I don't know.

*Ruth: Young, school?*

Gill: Must have been young. No, I don't think I was in school.

*Ruth: Would your parents have to allow you?*

Gill: Probably early— probably early twenties. No, they didn't I don't think so, I was probably over twenty-one.

*Ruth: Early twenties, over twenty-one. And were your parents in favour of Baptists.*

Gill: Probably not.

*Ruth: Oh, your mother must have died— did your mother die before you joined the Baptists then?*

Gill: Mm. 1958 yeah.

*Ruth: Yeah, but you were twenty-one then.*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: Do you think you might have joined the Baptists at the same time?*

Gill: Around that time, it would have been, yeah.

*[Pause]*

Gill: It's just that Jean Warner who I was friendly with, lived up the road from me in Pic-Du-Ger park and she was going to the Baptist Church like.

*Ruth: Yeah.*

Gill: What are you laughing at?

*Ruth: Because I like the sound of the Pic-Du-Ger park,*

Gill: Oh yeah.

*Ruth: It's a funny name, isn’t it? Pic-Du-Ger, how do you spell it, is it like got dashes in it?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: P-I-C*

Gill: DU JER.

*Ruth: Pic-du-jer park. Is it like from the French?*

Gill: Yeah. Yeah.

*Ruth: Picture of the day.*

Gill: No, I don't know what the “Jer” was. And it wasn't— it was sometimes one word and sometimes hyphenated,

*Ruth: Is it still there?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: Where is it?*

Gill: Up above—

*Ruth: Boreenmanna?*

Gill: No, Ballinlough, up across from the church, up a bit more and across from the church.

*Ruth: Yeah. Up towards O'Driscoll's shop.*

Gill: Yeah. Not far though from the church, quite a long way from O'Driscoll's shop.

*Ruth: Yeah.*

Gill: It was the next turn right after, there used to be, I don't know whether it's still there or not, a fry-up place.

*Ruth: Johnny Fries?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: Yeah. It's still there, it's owned by different people now.*

Gill: Next turn right was Pic-Du-Jer park.

*Ruth: I'm going to turn this off now, is that alright?*

Gill: Yeah.

*Ruth: Would you like to say anything else about the ages from fifteen to twenty-nine?*

Gill: No.

*Ruth: Feel like you said it all?*

Gill: Yes, thank you.

*Ruth: Ok good.*

**[00:59:23 End interview 2].**