

Merryl B, born May 1951

An edited version of an interview made on 29 May 2008

Interviewer: Christine Wilson

When I was a child I used to live over at West Earlham and as a treat we were brought to Eaton Park to see the boating lake and the little train. It was marvellous to see the boating lake and all the gentlemen in striped blazers and straw boaters - I suppose they must have been club members. We'd come over and have a picnic and spend the whole day because where we lived at Earlham, Earlham Park didn't have any swings or anything so that was such a treat to be brought to this one. There was a huge slide at the top and a smaller one for smaller children.

Also I used to love it when the circus came and even the most famous clown, Coco the Clown, would be down. He would have his dressing-gown on, like a Paisley dressing-gown. He always had his hair on for the children and he would make it stand up.

In later years I moved to South Park Avenue and a friend of mind was working in the community centre running the playgroup. She said to me, come and work with me in the park. I came over 1982 and I then really integrated into the life of the community centre. I was on all the committees and I ended up running the playgroup because the other lady's child grew up and she wanted to move on. I was a key-holder for eight years and we had a very varied life. We did summer fetes, easter parades, you know, table top sales because they were popular at the time. There was also a discotheque of one sort or another, lots of things.

*Were you involved in the fundraising?* No not for the actual community centre, no, but I was involved in the fundraising for the store which they built on afterwards, later. It's still a really active community centre.