

**Transcript of interview with Sara Mumby**

**Track 1** –  I’m Sara Mumby, I used to live in Peterborough, I ended up living in Peterborough because my dad worked for Peterborough Development Corporation when it existed, so we moved there for his job and his job was doing conveyancing, so all, big lots of land like Bretton, Werrington and Orton, all the needlework was done by my dad, so that’s quite significant for me really. And obviously nowadays they’re just established places but when we moved there, it was still in the process of being a new town. And I got involved in the Millfield area because when I was probably 18/19, I wanted to do some voluntary work. I lived in Bourne, which is just into Lincolnshire, North of Peterborough, but I can’t remember now why I wanted to work in that area, I think probably because it was quite multi-ethnic, and I worked at GLADCA which was the Gladstone Street Community Association advice shop on a Saturday, and so that would have been, oh my goodness, in the late 1970’s, so a long time ago and so I worked as a volunteer there and I did some other volunteer work too but as far as Millfield was concerned that’s where I was mainly and then thought working at GLADCA I met Roger Brooks and after some time and various things, we got married in 1981, although I’d known him for a few years before then, and then, I don’t know whether you know Charley but, Roger about the time we got married became very ill, he had a brain tumour, and he, less that an year later died of a brain tumour, he was a councillor on Peterborough City Council, not actually for Millfield but for Ravensthorpe, but was still very involved in Millfield because of being involved with GLADCA. So when Roger died, and he was really well respected, and he was a really good councillor, cause we \*\*\*\* off councillors all the time, lots of times for very good reasons, but he was a really diligent councillor, he worked really hard and I know the other connection was he was the chair of the planning committee because he was really interested in housing and planning and land use and I think even then was very aware of environmental concerns, interested in architecture, so he was Chair of the planning committee for the council. And he also, we, there was him and Brian Fisch who was also a councillor, Brian and Kate Fisch, I’m still friends with, they live in Leeds now, so he and Brian and Alan Dowson, I don’t if Alan is still around, but anyway he was a councillor as well, if you knew Alan you would remember him, but anyway particularly Brian and Roger were really young and active, they were labour councillors, kind of socialist councillors. So anyway after Roger died the council asked me if I’d like to or what would I feel about doing something in memory of Roger, because he was only 36 when he died, he was very young, not because but he was very young. And the options were to name a cycleway after him, I’m not quite sure which one it was now, or the mural, because I think at the time Francis Gomila had been commissioned to do the mural, I can’t remember, I think it was because they made that Link Road that the mural is on, so they knocked a small number of houses down to make that Link Road, so there must have been some kind of physical regeneration in the area going on at the same time too. So yes, I think that as part of the regeneration then, there was the mural and I opted to have the mural, so that’s how that came about. And I think as you know, when it was being painted, Francis and his young people that worked with him, obviously had that lovely, well you can’t see it so well now but that really beautiful, like flowers, tall flowers and then they would talk to some of the people who lived round there and they painted them, which made it really, well it was special but it was special because the people were local too. And then at some point, and I can’t remember when now, so Roger died in 1982, so it probably wasn’t that long after, there was a bit of a civic ceremony and the mural was named ‘The Roger Brooks Mural’ and I’ve got a photo, a framed photo of it with a little plaque.

**Track 2** - So then I eventually left Peterborough in the late 80’s, I moved away from Peterborough and I moved up to the North West and so over the years, because it’s nearly 40 years now, because my family, which has now dwindled, but my family were living in and around Peterborough, so I would come and have a look relatively often over the past however many years and then, so obviously I had noticed that it had deteriorated, inevitably over time and then I think I’m right in saying, I can’t remember what exactly happened, but I think I was in touch with probably Kit Hubback and I have a feeling somebody else but I can’t think who it is, and I was interested in seeing whether it could be restored, and I think I wrote to the Chief Executive of the council at one point. Anyway as you know, eventually, I wasn’t involved in getting the funding but as you know there was some funding found, which from what’s been described to be as a kind of larger arts project as well as restoring the mural and that’s where we are today!

**Track 3** – I do remember it being quite a cohesive community and very friendly, lots of small businesses, it was interesting seeing that video by Deljit talking about the different shops and who ran the shops, and he did talk about how there was quite a lot of prejudice with his family’s shop and how they got round that which was interesting, so I’m sure those prejudices were there, but I don’t remember then being in your face, I mean it’s probably easy for me to say that, other people, I mean people from Pakistan or the Caribbean might think and remember very differently but yeah, it was poor but it felt safe I would say. I don’t remember there being, you know like a, any, if you were to walk through at night feeling afraid or any of those concerns that people have sometimes

**Track 4** – There was an adventure playground that was, I have a feeling it was on Cromwell Road, that was run by a woman called Sheila O Grady and Tim and Sheila, I don’t know whether they’re still local, they used to live in Bretton, they were also friends and Tim was a really good friend of Rogers, but Sheila ran this adventure playground, and it was when, in the times of adventure playground, because they don’t really exist anymore, but it was a really well attended and sort of unusual, more unusual kind of facility for young people and it was off, there must have been an area of land where there were some big structures that were built that kids played on, but it was more like supervised and lots of activities going on, place. So, I remember the adventure playground as being a really valuable community resource.

**Track 5 –** So Roger was actually the chair of the Urban Renewal Action committee, not the planning committee and the Mayor was, and I can’t remember what his first name was, Councillor Shelford, A. R Shelford.

**Track 6** – So to be honest I don’t remember an awful lot apart from this picture was presented to me, oh no that must have been after because it’s got the thing about the Mayor, there being a lot of the great and the good there and obviously local people as well, I can’t remember if it was covered up and then revealed, I don’t think it would have been as it’s a bit too big to cover up, you’d have to go onto the roof! But yeah it was somebody, the mayor would have made a speech, but I really can’t remember