Title:	Jackson, Bill_Complete Interview
Creators:	Rick & Julia Goldsmith
Project:	Herefordshire Life Through A Lens
Tagline:	Films, stories and exhibitions inspired by the photographic archive of the Derek Evans Studio 1950s-80s
Subject:	Autobiography, Derek Evans Studio, Herefordshire, Heritage, childhood, historical Hereford, importance of Derek Evans archive
Publisher:	Catcher Media Social CIC
Tags:	Photography, Derek Evans, oral history, heritage, PV, participatory film-making, community film, Herefordshire, Derek Evans Studio

_____

Identifier:	Jackson, Bill_Complete Interview
Interview Date:	October_17_2018
Location:	Left Bank, Hereford
Source:	Catcher Media Social CIC
Interviewee:	Bill Jackson (speaker, male)
Interviewer:	Marsha O'Mahony and Gabrielle Brace-Stevenson (speaker, both female)
Camera & Sound:	Richard Goldsmith (male)
Producer:	Julia Goldsmith
Language:	English

_____

Type:	Video
Video Format:	MPEG-4
Bit rate:	25.5 mbits/s
Frame rate:	25 FPS
Aspect ratio:	16:9
Width:	1920 pixels
Height:	1080 pixels
Scan type:	Progressive
Audio Format:	AAC
Audio Sampling rate:	48.00 kHz
Audio Bit rate:	192 kb/s
Stereo/Mono:	Mono
File Size:	8.62 GB
Duration:	48 min 20 seconds

_____

Type:	Audio
Audio Format:	MP3 audio
Audio Sampling rate:	44.100 kHz
Audio Bit rate:	256 kb/s
Stereo/Mono:	Mono

File Size:	89.2 MB
Duration:	48 min 3 seconds

Transcript:

Interviewer: Marsha O'Mahony/Gabrielle Brace-Stevenson
Interviewee: Bill Jackson
Location: Charlie's Bar, Left Bank, Hereford
Date:

Abstract: Summary: Bill Jackson was born in Hereford in 1944 the son of a butcher, and later attended the Cathedral School. He is a prominent businessman in the city and county. In this interview he discusses his career, first at Brightwells Auctioneers, and he later starting up on his own business, running Jackson Property, with bases in Herefordshire and Cheshire. A young man in Hereford in the 1960s he is a regular at the jazz club that runs at the Race Course on Widemarsh Street, attracting plenty of young women from the nearby teacher training college. He is a former High Sheriff of Herefordshire. In this interview Bill also discusses the jazz age in Hereford, the growth of Hereford, his childhood, school days. He also talks about Derek Evans, and his love of sport, Herefordshire rural life, and his skills as a photographer.

0.00

MOM: Could you start of by introducing yourself.

BJ: My name is Bill Jackson. I'm an estate agent. I've been in the profession now for 50 years. Born in the city, christened in All Saints, went to Cathedral Prep School, failed my 11+, failed the entrance to the Hereford Cathedral School, then was sent to Lucton for seven years, which was really from my point of view the best thing that ever happened to me because I was actually quite good at sport, especially cricket, and I was captain of the first team when I was 15 and had a trial for Worcester when I was 14. And I never aspired beyond that. Then eventually when I had finished my articles at Russell, Baldwin & Bright, and we did three years, and we got paid £13 a month for three years as a contract. And you were articled as a quantity surveyor. And that there again was a great experience. Worked in the markets and then specialised in property and opened of course in Leominster in 1967, where I'm still in the same premises.

But Hereford has changed. When I was a youngster, we had no

television. The first television I saw was the Coronation in 1952 and went to a neighbour's house and sat in the front room, about 20 people, a little box, which was just about only nine inches square. But we played outside. I grew up in Three Elms, the Yazor Brook, I know all the Yazor Brook, Huntingdon, the duck ponds. We played in nature, we had bows and arrows, catapults, bowie knives, and we used to ride into Hereford on our bikes and go to Ascaris, the first Italian coffee, and park our bikes, and we would walk in with our sheaf knives strapped to our legs. Nowadays of course if you did that you'd be arrested.

Hereford was booming in those days. You had wonderful stores like Greenlands, was the Harrods to London, as was Greenlands to Hereford and the whole of Wales. Gus Edwards' with the concave window. And of course, at Christmas that was a great time at Greenlands for Father Christmas. They had a magnificent grotto downstairs in the basement. And also, a penny bird machine. you put a penny and the bird sang. So for a child growing up, and I grew up…we lived first of all in Eign Street before moving out to Portway ad then Three Elms. They came into Three Elms to have me closer to the Prep School and in those days, I used to go to school by myself and come home at lunch. It was a penny halfpenny return into town and tuppence halfpenny for a return.

Three Elms road is totally different. You just had a row of houses on the right-hand side opposite White Cross school is now. It was just open fields. To the left of it was Jack Matthews' field and the first combine harvester in Herefordshire was in 1952 and that was on that field and they used to have hare coursing there as well and that was a regular event. We were right in the countryside but right on the edge of the city as well. And of course, we had the train. The Brecon line going right past, steam trains. And as a youngster I used to put a penny on the track and get is squashed. And we used to go across the railway line and there was a footpath and we went to Huntingdon Court and the ponds. And we just played outside. We played in the Yazor Brook, we damned it, we caught sticklebacks, we turned around and got frog spawn, got all the tadpoles and hatched out in gardens at home. So we were really actually very close to nature. And you can understand there was no television. A radio, that we never listened to because we were always out. [Talking about the Cart Shed charity he is involved with]

5.00

[Talking about cricket and Derek's love of cricket] Derek loved his cricket. And he also loved his jazz. And I can remember the jazz that used to be held at a pub at the top end of Widemarsh Street and when I used to go to the market and work in those days we used to wear things like cavalry twills and a jacket and a tie, peaked hat. And we also used to go to the jazz club because in those days Hereford used to have a teacher training

college, all girls, four to five hundred, where the Blind College is now, was the campus. And they had dormitory houses out in Aylestone Hill. But the girls used to come down of course, College Road to the Jazz Club and that drew all us young men. And we would go and the jazz of course was part of it. But Derek, he liked his jazz and he used to be there all the time. So I saw two accounts of him: one with the jazz, also with the photography, of course in those days it was black and white, you had very little colour. He then pioneered television in the area, he did all the news, cricket, all the photographs. But he was part of Hereford. He did all the photography in the market, all the Hereford bulls. And then he was always taking photographs. You can see that with the catalogue that you've got.

The ones that I love are the hop picking ones. And then as youngster we used to go hop picking with my grandmother. We were butchers and we knew a lot of farmers. So we would go for a day hop picking and I can't really remember but they would put me in the basket, where they put the hops and I would be there and I couldn't crawl out. And of course it was like a cot. And you had people from all over Wales and also Birmingham. And Yeomans at Canon Pyon we used to go to. And they used to bring them as Yeoman buses from Wales to Westhope and they would put a medical team on and they would come off the buses and queue to see a doctor and a nurse. And the stories came back that they even cleaned out the pig styes. And they camped. And the two pubs in the village and the local policeman, he used to have one pub for gypsies and one pub for the Welsh. And he would stand in between with his bike resting there.

MOM: You were saying what a vibrant city Hereford. Could you tell a bit more about that?

BL: Well, as I say I was born in the city and lived to begin with in Eign Street above the butchers. And of course even when we moved out to Three Elms, that was also home. And my grandmother then moved to Friars House. And I was always in the city. Down here by the bridge [Old bridge in Hereford] I had a dog called Pip and I used to take Pip for a walk, and I was only four or five. In those days you could go anywhere because everyone knew you. I got lost when I was three and they went looking for me and they had the police out and they find me at the only traffic lights in the county was at the top end of Eign Street and in Eign Street was Currys and that was the shop that sold the radios and bicycles. It had a concave window that actually went in the recess. They found me with my nose against the window…

10.00

…looking at a three-wheeler bike! And what happened? My next birthday I went down to the Friar's House and my grandmother had

this big package and unwrapped and there was a three-wheeled bike! So your dreams do come true sometimes. But Hereford was an area I could walk through….Marchants, the coffee, it ground the coffee and it had the extractor opposite Boots as it is now. Then you went into as I say to Greenlands, High Town, Gurneys, which were the greengrocers, and they served the whole county, and then of course Pritchards, where I got my first school uniform. And Edward Pritchard, who is still trading in King Street, his father of course served in Gallipoli with the Herefords. And then of course of course ended up with the Camel Corps in Palestine. He died a day before his 100th birthday.

So there's a lot of history. As youngsters we would go around the city, into the market. In the market they had the weigh bridge, side of the Market Tavern. And we had our bikes and at ten or 11, we would ride anywhere. So we were slightly feral but it was a great childhood. And Hereford then, buses came in from central Wales every day and the Welsh always came here to do their Christmas shopping. And that's coming back now of course.

MOM: Can you describe the scene in Hereford when you were a teenager

BJ: Because I was only earning £13 a month it was pretty difficult, so I decided to….at Lucton I was a colour sergeant of the cadets, and the Colonel of the Hereford Regiment, the Hereford Regiment was 550 strong, it was a full regiment, a TA regiment, and I joined up as an officer cadet. [BJ talking about his army career]…

15.00

…The Cathedral has always been a very close part of me as well. I think it's one of our most treasured jewels.

MOM: Coming back to the jazz club, can you give us a sense of the place?

BJ: It was a room you went around the back, there's a fish and chip shop still there, and you went around the back and there's two big doors and you went in. and the jazz, the players were right at the far end, and it was absolutely packed, and sometimes if you got there late you couldn't get in you were outside in the yard virtually listening to it. People were pretty conservative. You know we didn't really embrace the flower power of the sixties, although we had a lot of people coming out from London and elsewhere buying small holdings and cottages, and live off the land and the hippy side. As youngsters we never really participated. Pretty conservative, especially in the job I was in which was in the markets, so you had your uniform, as I said, cavalry twills, hacking jacket, polished brown shoes and a peaked hat and a tie. And that was your uniform

Oh yes, there was smoking in the club, dancing down the front, it was pretty cramped. But smoking, absolutely. Smoking in those days, everybody smoked. I smoked! It never bothered us. Whichever pub you went into, and of course pipes were smoked and cigars. But pipes were very common, and cigarettes. Nearly everyone smoked virtually.
MOM: Do you remember any particular performers at the club? Were romances borne there?

BJ: Oh romances, I'm sure. The thing is, especially from the college, it was an opportunity to….in close proximity, you could talk and strike up conversation with someone. That was where we went to try and date someone. There weren't that many opportunities. Young Farmers dances, things like that, but in the city, that was a prime area to go, you targeted to go. The college meant there were an awful lot of young ladies coming in at 18 to do their three-year teacher training course.

20.00

MOM: So, was it a place parents would have disapproved of?

BJ: They knew where we were. I mean remember we were 17, 18. But I can never ever remember seeing any fights, or anything there that roused people's concerns. Everyone went there to enjoy themselves. And people from all walks of life enjoy jazz. You got not only us youngsters but some quite senior citizens who would come. It was a source of entertainment. We would cycle there. when we got our cars…. I can remember when the first Minis came out, a friend of mine bought it brand new for £384 and it had one seat for the driver and you had to buy the passenger seat. And that was a van. And then you put seats in the back of the van, which I think he bought second hand from somewhere. We didn't have cars. The first person to have one in our crowd was Alan Powell, Powell's the Builders and he had a Morris Minor. We used to pile into that and go all over the place to Guilford and elsewhere. So we had a great time as youngsters. There was always something to do and Hereford was a great place to live.

MOM: What other things did you get up to then as a young man?

BJ: We had of course Ascaris and that was the first expresso coffee house in Hereford. And the family are still running it and that has expanded. And they used to be going in there and the far corner where we used to go as youngsters. And of course, in the early days, we used to go at 16 or 17, and we used to go to the Salmon Inn Pub. We wouldn't go to the Three Elms which was close to us because everyone knew who we were. We'd cycle to the other end of town to go into the pubs there and play darts and have a pint of shandy and we thought we were whizz kids and cycle back. I mean you had a freedom and not many went to

university. quite a few basically did their …they could leave school at 15 and they did apprenticeships, they were very very strong. Wiggins had come in those days, which was a major boost to the city, and that was in the fifties. And they employed up to three and a half thousand people. And they had their own training programmes, and boys, I think they still do now, and girls of course, run round, they do their physical fitness, which they had as part of their training. Some really, really, sort of, advanced engineers were created up there in the alloys. Bulmers cider, which really was very very strong in those days when they had their own transport. And then of course Sun Valley came along, which is Cargill. And that's changed because they'd been bought out by corporates and that meant senior management was taken, so suddenly Hereford lost all their, well not all but a lot of their high earners, that was senior management, that's at a hundred thousand plus (£100,000+). And they took that of course to their headquarters wherever they were. Heineken and then Cargill. Although Cargill did have a level of senior management.

MOM: So, in the 50s/60s/70s, was there a strong entrepreneurial spirit in Hereford?

BJ: Yeah, and farming. Farming was, and still, a really really major employer. Huntington Court 1950s was 500 acres, that was a big farm in those days and they still had a couple of Shire Horses there. Mr Powell used to have those. And they employed 11. Eleven people on that farm. Whereas now, 500 acres is just a father and son, it's a family concern. But agricultural wages in the sixties and seventies, Dales of Leominster, basic wage was £16 a week, that was the average agricultural wage. They got paid £2 guaranteed overtime and make up to put them to a thousand…./

25.00

BJ: /….so they could afford to buy a semi-detached bungalow for £1950 in those days in Leominster in Castle Fields.

GB: Can you describe what sort of time you had in the fifties and sixties in Herefordshire?

BJ: Well in Herefordshire I was very lucky to go to Lucton School, which I went to in 1956. And that really was out in the most rural area of north Herefordshire. So, the countryside, that was our playground. And we also played a lot of sport there, rugby, Luctonians rugby club, I played for the school and I played for Luctonians for 17 seasons. So north Herefordshire is an important part of my life as well, especially from the age of 11 upwards. Boarding schools were pretty basic. We had no heating in the dormitories and I can remember waking up one morning and we had sort of little lockers of three beds and Piggy Meredith was in the middle, we called him Piggy Meredith

because his father bred pigs, and there was piggy one, piggy two and piggy three, that was three brothers. And woke up one winter's morning and – the windows had to be half open – and all you could see was the top of his head covered in snow! And as I say we had cold water, mostly, we had to be up at seven, mostly, go for a walk every morning to get fresh air before the bell came at twenty past seven to bring us in for breakfast. So we used to have showers every day but only a bath once a week, the bath was measured with a ruler. We then had sort of big fires in the classrooms, there was no heating as such, and they had the big coke boilers we used to crowd round in the winter. And Sunday walks, we had to go for five mile walks on a Sunday afternoon. And they used to put a prefect out and allow bikes and cycle to the furthest point, so you had to go there and be checked off and come back. And you never went out. We had exeats, only one exeat every half term and otherwise you were there. and there again you made your own hobbies. You had air modelling where we made planes, and we had photography. We had sport, which was a big big thing. Rugby was big. And of course the youngest England captain went to Lucton School, England Captain, and that was part of the Vaughan family. Doctor Vaughan was a doctor at Kingsland and he was the school doctor. And two of the Vaughans, three of them, went to Lucton. And Brian Vaughan ended up captain of England. Went to Cambridge. There's quite a distinguished roll call of old Luctonians going back to 1708 when Pierrepoint founded it. And took quite a lot of getting used to but there was but then there was 90 boarders and about 30 dayboys, about 120 in the school, all boys. And 80 percent were farmers and a lot of them used to leave school when they were fifteen and they'd go back and work on the farm. And that was a shame there were some brilliant scholars at Lucton who at 15 were getting seven or eight O'Levels, which in those days was good and having to even go back and work on the farm. And of course they were cheap labour. And I used to play rugby with most of them and many many years afterwards they would turn up at rugby in the Landover. A lot of farmers would have a pot on the mantelpiece and were allowed to take a ten bob note and that would be what they would spend on their beer and they would have the Landover with either the petrol or diesel on the farm and go and play rugby. And we played in those days a lot in Gloucestershire and down in the Forest of Dean and those are hard matches down there. The Foresters. Cinderford, I can remember, Berry Hill, I mean they were really tough. But we had farmers who played for Lucton and they were physically very fit and we had a marvellous pack and forwards and they were strong. But then we started to play more in the Midlands and now Lucks of course have just gone down from the national side for a village side…./

30.00

BJ: /…to put out a boy's side, a national side , which they've done for the last five years is really remarkable. We bought the

first part of our ground now was 11 acres and we paid a £1000 an acre for it. And we had an AGM beforehand to discuss how much we were going to pay for it. And we decided £10,000. Hugh Like went there, who was an auctioneer, he paid £10,500 for it and there was another meeting afterwards to discuss whether he was going to be punished for going over the £500 extra, which you had to find in those days, a lot of money. Anyway, he stood up and said, I'll put the money in myself. And that sort of stopped that argument. We raised the extra money. So I could go to Mortimer's Cross, where the battle was in 1460? The battle of the Roses. 4,500/5,000 men were killed in that battle in one day. It was the Mortimer's of course who owned the whole part of Ludlow castle going right back to Wigmore and Earl Mortimer who became Edward VI I think. He fought at that battle and rose in the morning and there were three sons on the sunrise. His troops thought it was an omen, 'yes, it's god giving us the day in battle' and they all knelt down and prayed. And then they went to battle. And it was the bowmen that won it. He had the Welsh bowmen who were very muscular. And Pembroke came up and his army had just come back from France fighting and they marched all the way up from the Welsh coast and camped where Luctonians rugby club is now. But the battle was fought at Mortimer's Cross.

Derek, you see, he was passionate, pioneering photography in those days. And every opportunity, he went out and took people from all walks of life. He could chat to anyone and he would suddenly just take that picture you weren't expecting, the one that you're there, and you're talking away and you put your pose on to go on, but he would be there and take photographs, and that was the history and what he has given this is this wonderful library of pictures, including the ones I've bought down of the cricket teams, the history, the fundraising, the Three Choirs, the city, the Mayfair of course, which was big. When I was a young boy the May Fair was just THE thing. The Helter Skelter, when you're a three, four or five-year-old, you got up there on the mats and down, and then you went right through city. It was everywhere. And you had a boxing ring and that was the other thing, we used to sneak in and try and watch it, and then he had the local lads who put themselves up against the semi-professionals. And that was really, really quite basic. Really, sort of, well the professionals but some of the young lads really put up a good fight. And then of course you had the naughty dancers as well. Which as youngsters we were enthralled by pictures of these scantily-clad women on the outside of the dance show that they used to have and that was always down Commercial Road. So we would go every night and we would go in many cases when we got to the age of about teenagers, we would go by ourselves we could go anywhere. We always had to be in by 9 o'clock. If I was ever late. Then mother would sort of reprimand me. But we were able to go anywhere. Yeah, it was a great great childhood here. And Derek was part of that. He was older than I was and he would have been there through the war and of course we had Rotherwas, the ammunitions. There of course

they had the bomber that came over and dropped his bombs there. we were very lucky there. The whole place could have gone up. And that there again has been resurrected. It is now the enterprise zone, defence and security. We have now got the first cyber centre, purpose built being built down there under the umbrella of Wolverhampton University, a three-acre campus. You have another two £8million projects starting. And we've already just started one down there and you'll see all the steel work going up. So Hereford is rejuvenating itself. And the A49 and the infrastructure…/

35.00

BJ: /…is being improved. But we're doing it actually with defence and security and cyber. And go down to Rotherwas and you will not know the companies down there. they have no signs, you don't know that they are there. there is one defence company there that employs over 300 skilled people. Hereford will become the cyber centre of England, with Worcester which is Qinetiq and GCHQ at Gloucester, a cluster. And that's why the government has given £8million pound in and the project starts in the spring of next year. So Hereford really is beginning to …. And the city centre is beginning to, and it's going to become more continental. People are going to go there as I said before for an experience and they will want to be entertained. And that's what Darren Socket is doing at the Butter Market. He's a Hereford boy, self-made, and he's invested a lot of money there to put it back into the city.

Yeah, the Derek Evans I knew was passionate about Hereford city. He was a Hereford boy, he was a Hereford man. He enjoyed his cricket, enjoyed the jazz, enjoyed the people. He pioneered television and did all the news casting. Course black and white in those early days and the history that he's left behind will show the county as it was, as I remember it as a youngster, vibrant, agriculture. I mean in those days in Leominster drovers used to bring the cattle in from the top of Bargates the market there, and then drive them out the far end, down to the railway station, where the pens were, that took them all over the country. I can remember in Three Elms Road Old Man Rogers used to put his cattle from Three Elms into the market along the road and he had two corgi dogs, they were cattle dogs. He with a stick in his hand, would walk right into the city centre with the cattle, and that was in the fifties! Early fifties. And we boys thought it was wonderful to see these cattle come down. And the abattoir of course and the famous times when some of the cattle got out and loose around the city. It was an area where everyone knew everyone else. There were families there, especially trade. We were butchers . and then you had all the trade, all the families and they lived in the smarter houses on the fringes of the city, the merchants. But they knew everyone. Everyone knew everything. I am related to nearly every farming

family through my mother's side in the county, cousins once removed or twice. I can find out anything about anyone quicker than you can on your computers. And not only that, I'll be more accurate. So that's gone. Not completely, but you haven't got that sense of being at home, never being worried . everyone knew where you were. And the city which goes back of course, like the bridge here to the 12th, 8th, 9th century. And of course the High Sheriffs go back, they are the oldest office in the land and they go back to the 9th centre. I traced one back to 981. And of course then we were in charge of law and order, we were in charge of collecting taxes and that's why we only held office for a year because it was so onerous. And our county of Herefordshire was where you were the boss. And we were in many cases we went to war and as soon as the king raised an army then the High Sheriff with his posse would go to war. And they have the pikes now still in the museum that the posse used to go with the High Sheriff to greet the judges, travelling judges on the edges of the boundaries to take over from the next High Sheriff and his posse. And we still now have the uniform of High Sheriff which was created by Queen Victoria in 1886 and that's the britches, the sword, the rapier we still carry. And we are allowed to carry it through the city. When I became High Sheriff I enquired could I actually walk …./

40.00

BJ: /….through the city with rapier and I was told yes. You are on military duty that's why the forces of course can parade with their swords. Yes, with Derek's studios there were others. There were Hammonds and Skevington's and people used to have formal photographs of families like we did, and I think it was Hammonds used to come out and mother would be there all dressed up and my sister in her best and me in my best in my cathedral prep uniform and we would pose for photographs. There was a number of studios that was black and white, very little colour. Derek was part of that. He was a pioneer also in early TV, that was where he really was a front runner and recorded an awful lot of films of the county. He was passionate. Hereford man born and bred and he knew everyone, absolutely everyone. From his sporting, cricket, he used to play cricket sometimes, seven days a week. We were playing the league in the evenings and knockouts and we'd play for the sports club Saturdays and Sundays. Because there wasn't much else to do. Played sport and if you were good at sport it was great and it opened doors. He was part of the city. Everyone knew him, everyone basically had a story to tell. He had a picture to take. And this is what you're putting together now, which I'm sure will be history in the making.

GB: I really liked what you were saying earlier drawing the connections between the vibrancy of Hereford and Derek's black and white photography era and the rejuvenation of Herefordshire now and whether you think that's got anything to do with the appropriateness of the time that we're making this?

BJ: Derek was someone who put all his energy into what he did. Photography was his life. It was his passion. Like his cricket, like his jazz or whatever he undertook, he was a hundred per cent. Hereford was also his life. And the county and the history; and that's why you've got this magnificent library. It's got to be out there and part of the history of county. And in a hundred-year's time we will be looking back and thinking, 'Derek Evans, wow, look at all this'. And not only that. I've been lucky enough to see the city change. When I was young as I said before, it was a wonderful place to be brought up , it was great. It had its problems . those are now being overcome. You've got the old market development which I was a strong supporter of and gave evidence and support for it, a lot of opposition, but now proved to be a great success. And now you've got this what I call the snake, the old market coming down Widemarsh Street to High Town and you've got the Hereford Bull, which is a figure. And that of course was Sam Beaumont, who instigated that, and we got together and got that funding for it and it stands there as part of Hereford by the old house. And all the new building going on there, which is opposite which is going to be shops and houses in the city centre. Getting lots of flats now being redeveloped. I have an apartment myself above the office overlooking the Cathedral. I spend four nights there in the city. Love it. I can go down to the Den which has just opened for an evening meal, w2hcih is really great. There are seven restaurants in Bridge Street. I can go down to Bishops Meadow when the dog comes down to stay. I can run all through the fields there and the pitches and back into Castle Green. Which of course the local community have taken control of again and really doing some wonderful works. The whole city is beginning to pull together. And you've got the city centre which will now change. We will see more continental dining. I'm absolutely sure we will see heaters outside in the High Town as it is now with the Coffee. People coming in from all central Wales. That's our market. That's our catchment area. Not down to Cardiff, into Hereford. And with the jobs coming and by-pass starting next year as well, funding is in place for the A49 to the A465, the route has been agreed and the route going onto the A49 at Lyde has also been agreed now in principle. So the city will change. And I think it will just be a wonderful place to live…/

45.00

BJ: /… And I'm really really delighted that my mother came back from Ireland to have me born here and it's been a privilege. And being a Hereford boy born and bred, worked, I've made a career here, I've been lucky enough to travel all over the world, I've just come back from South Korea, I'm off to I wouldn't say Bali, Indonesia on business. I've been allowed to use my property expertise to travel and Antigua is my second home. Hereford is where my heart is.

GB: final question, what do you think the value is of doing a project like this is?

BJ: Look, history is in the making. And Derek Evans was part of that history, especially in photography. You get a taste of what the city was all about. It was vibrant. You also had the problems of some of the major companies being purchased by nationals and then the top ten per cent of the earners left the city and that left a void in houses, it left a void in employment and we're now really beginning to reengineer that, especially with defence and security. Those are well-paid jobs and cyber and Wolverhampton University coming in, together with NMite will transform the city. We will have students here, up to four or five thousand. That's going to make a tremendous difference to places like this, the Left Bank. Students that we have here, the Art College, that is fantastic. They're getting degrees now. 170 degrees were created in the city. No one talks about it. But you go to the cathedral you see those crowds of students and see some of the work they do particularly in the metal work and the sort of embroidery, art work, I mean we produce some of the finest artists. And that there again is something we don't shout out about. Ok Hereford Bulls, cider, apples, but there's a whole lot else and there's a history, where the Marches, and we have a castle here . go the Mayor's parlour and you will see the best artist's impression of what the castle was like . and it was a big castle. Sacked by Cromwell and all the walls were dynamited. And all you've got is the Castle Green now. Wonderful centre. So Hereford future awesome! And what you're seeing is Derek's contribution to the history because that's vital.

50.00