

Title: Peter Saxty-Hill Interview

Creators: Rick & Julia Goldsmith

Project: 'The Close in Living Memory: Hereford Cathedral Close oral reminiscences'

Subject: Autobiography, Living and working around Cathedral Close in Herefordshire, Heritage

Publisher: Catcher Media Social CIC

Tags: Cathedral Close, oral history, heritage, PV, participatory film-making, community film, Herefordshire

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Identifier: Peter Saxty-Hill

Interview Date: 2010, Hereford

Interviewee: Peter Saxty-Hill (speaker, male)

Interviewer: Marsha O'Mahony & Julia Goldsmith (speaker, female)

Camera & Sound: Richard Goldsmith (male)

Producer: Julia Goldsmith

Language: English

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Type: Video

Width: 1440 pixels

Height: 1080 pixels

Scan type: Progressive

Stereo/Mono: Stereo Mixdown

Duration: 4 min 28 seconds

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Transcript:

00:00

Peter is sixth generation Herefordian and he went to Hereford Cathedral preparatory school in Castle street and then of course went up to the 'big' school which was Hereford Cathedral School. It was a question really that each morning going to Cathedral for early morning service and then back to lessons. Peter does say that sometimes he would get there rather late, so pretending that he was actually in the procession he would hide in the toilets behind the Close and join the procession when it came out and looked as if he was there.

00:36

The Close meant everything to the boys, as they could nip across - they had a lovely english master who enjoyed gin who would take them across the close to the Spread Eagle for a quiet one - and it was sort of everything about the history. Particularly from Peter's point of view was that the bottom of Key (SPELLING) street was the old Hereford Art college and they could see the very attractive art students coming out and the close was quite an important place for courting. Though Peter doesn't go into those details as it's a family film, but the Close certainly was an important part - the public areas and the sort of darker areas to the side.

01:23

Peter is also reminiscent of the time when they had the Cathedral school cadet force and the band that he had been promoted from playing side/big drum to big drum major. There was one time they were having a major parade through the close and it was thought to be rather good to have a mace - so they borrowed it from the Hereford TA. It was a wonderful thing with a great big silver knob and a lovely silver lion on the top. They had to take special care of it so Peter had been practising with a broomstick throwing it up and down and catching it every time - so when the day came and the boy asked will Peter throw it he said 'yes it ought to be thrown'. They were going through the Close towards Broad street where his fathers office was and he was up there with a camera - Peter though 'this is the time' so up goes the mace with the silver crown on the top, and he was trying to smile and make sure he got the picture but unfortunately he missed it when it came down. So the mace went back with the lion slightly flattened on top and the boys jeered like mad.

02:38

The final time was when they all lined up for the Queen and Prince Phillip who came to a celebration in the Cathedral. They came in about 57' or 58'. It was the first time she had visited and Hereford Cathedral school cadet force lined the entrance to the west wing.

03:20

Peter and his friend Richard Hammonds were active members of the Hereford Round table - and they decided they needed to make a film for new members on induction services. This was a slightly tongue-in-cheek version and Peter managed to persuade his attractive secretary to come along where they had a coffin. She was holding the coffin and Peter was supposed to be coming out of the coffin on the west wing. More happened but Peter thinks that he should leave it until they can find the film and can show us everything.

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This film was made by Catcher Media for the Hereford Cathedral Close project in association with In Our Age and supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Watch the video interviews on the vimeo showcase:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7908663>