

Diane and Judy, growing up, and the ash tree

Frances Disley discusses growing up near Halewood Triangle Park with sisters Diane and Judy.

Frances: So, tell us where you grew up then?

Diane: We came from Speke didn't we? We were in a two bedroomed house, and there was seven of us with my mum and dad and that. It was my mums, and she went every week religiously to try and get a bigger house, and it was in Halewood.

Judy: When I moved here, I went into the infants. We thought we were in a mansion because [the new house] was so big! I was absolutely distraught with my mum because they all went into the juniors and I had to go in the infants. I wanted to lie about my age and be like "don't leave me!" and we've lived here ever since, haven't we?

F: What road was the house on?

D/J: Arncliffe Road. There were no shops, absolutely no shops and the road had just been built, just been tarmaced recently.

F: When was that?

J: Probably about 1962/63? Something like that, '64?

F: Did your house back directly onto the park?

D: Not this one, it backs onto what they call now the Frederick Lunt Park [Playing Fields]. So we backed onto that. Gosh, we used to get lost in all the grass, we used to hide in there, didn't we? And then off to the left, that's where the hill was, and the pyramids were on the top of that, and then the railway.

J: And the railway was just some kind of a flimsy fence thing. Then there was a steep hill down and that was the railway track. Back of the house was fields, what's now Frederick Lunt, then there were trees, and those fences were like sticks and a bit of wire then another stick, so you could just get over the fence. Up the back garden, into the field, and to the left - it wasn't that far. Then you had the hill going up to the pyramids.

F: And were the pyramids like, above the railway line then, overlooking the railway line?

D: Yeah they overlooked, and you had the trees there - big, massive trees - but what we did was, a rope and a piece of wood, it wasn't even planed wood or anything, just something off a tree, rope wrapped around it, and you would swing over the railway. And if somebody dared you to swing over the railway when a train was going past [and you did it], you were the bees knees - I was going to say something else then!

[All laugh]

J: I never did that!

D: I only ever did it once, I mean I used to do it when there wasn't any trains coming, that didn't bother me, but I only did it once with the train coming. My mum... [indistinguishable].

F: So it was like a place you'd hang out, a place you'd all meet? Did people meet at the pyramids, was it a landmark?

D: I think it was just the back field.

J: You just used to knock for everyone then go on the back field, into the woods, as it was known then. We would just go into the woods, just play in the woods.

D: There was sort of trails where other people had gone before - do you know what I mean?

F: So it wasn't a public thing? It didn't have pathways?

D: No, no

F: It was just a sort of in-between space?

D: Yes

F: Did you ever see any grown ups there, or was it just kids?

D: I can't remember seeing any grown ups.

F: How did you get into the woods, did you have to get over the railway line to get into the woods? Was there a bridge?

D: I'm wondering further down, maybe there was somewhere you crossed?

F: And did you say you had your first kiss there?

D: Yeah! I was going to say the name but I mightn't - I don't think I will because his family still lives on the estate!

[All laughing]

D: Yeah at the pyramids, I didn't like it at all!

[All laughing]