

Martin Norwood – Mischief on the Line

Martin:

I remember it was a big thing to see the train going over the railway arches at the bottom of the Marlowes itself.

Interviewer:

Right, and what time did that stop?

Martin

I was still at home so, mm I'm not sure, would have probably been around, the sixties time, well when the engine stopped I imagine prior to that, but when it was all dismantled and taken away, yeh, I'd imagine that would have been, late 50s early 60s. But I do remember going down at night when they blew it up. They put a whole pile of sleepers on the roadway to protect it because there was two roads going under the each arch, with a centre column, and they put sleepers down to protect the roadway. and of course that was demolished and then they put the BP building up.

Interviewer:

You mentioned a story about using the railway when it was derelict for purposes it was probably not intended for?

Martin:

Yeh, as kids, and I suppose we were maybe, 11, 12 years of age, there was a pump trolley that you could push on to the tracks once the trains had stopped, so we used to get on this train and probably after school, we'd get the truck and we'd take a trundle down the tracks and,er, down towards the gas works, and then, jump off at the right point and er make our way home. But yeh, that was all, all good fun! I remember the um, Heath Park Halt, the wooden station that was down there. That was the most difficult part to go over really because you was wide open to anybody that could see you but er, yeh, if my father was alive he would, don't know what he'd do! (laugh)