# Andrew Williams – The Playground

I'm 51 and I was born in Hemel, so I've been here for the whole of my 51 years, never having lived, er, anywhere other than Hemel. Um and I do have some recollections of the water gardens in my very younger days. And my early recollections are, visiting the gardens in what was then the play area with the very large swing and the walled castle and all that,  with my grandfather. My parents were self employed and a lot of the times when I went out for, for, for play or to visit somewhere, it was with my grandfather who lived just very close to us as, when we were growing up. And we had a large black car with side opening doors, and, visits to the water gardens, and to the, to the very large er, slide were an exciting trip out in the late 60s, very early seventies, when I was growing up. And that is my very earliest recollection of the water gardens, and I still, having recently seen the photographs, brought back some memories of those visits, which I, to be honest, I'd almost entirely forgotten about with the sort of, extension of the car parks and the um. And you perhaps forget now, just how.. big and unprotected some of this play equipment was in those days. And I'm sure now, that we'd have a, you know an awful lot of problems if that sort of equipment was still in place but, certainly from my childhood days I do remember it as a very exciting play area.