

The Co-op Café

Interviewer: Did you ever go to the cafe in the Co-op?

Pat: Oh yes we did, we'd go down there quite a, my husband and I. And if I went down on my own I'd go in there, yes. And we always used to try and sit so you could look out over the water garden, yes. It was lovely then.

Deborah: Cos if you were sitting there you'd see the fountain, wouldn't you?

Pat: Yeh, that's right, yes.

Deborah: Just, when we were little, it was really exciting to see the fountain!

Pat: Yeh, it was, yes.

Deborah: I used to go in there. I used to bunk off from school and go in there(laugh) sometimes.

Pat: Oh now all your secrets come out, you see, yes!

Deborah: and the coffee was just... awful! Horrible coffee! And they had those glass, um, they were like pyrex cups and saucers?

Pat: Oh yes

Deborah: Do you remember those?

Pat: Yes

Deborah: So we used to get a cup of coffee, cos we never had much money as teenagers, just pocket money or whatever. Get a cup of coffee and try like you say to sit in the window, and look out over the fountain and make our cup of coffee last for a couple of lessons' worth before we thought we had better go back now, cos we've got double biology or something. (laugh) Yeh, Nice spot for a cafe.

Pat: Yes it was, yes, there's not another one like it is there, these days?

Deborah: No

Interviewer: So it was right on the back, looking out over Waterhouse street and the lake?

Deborah: Yes it had big plate glass windows. It was really nice

Pat: Yes it was above the goods entrance really, wasn't it?you know where they they...

Interviewer: So it wasn't on the ground floor then?

Pat and Deborah: No, no it was upstairs. yes.

Deborah: Yes it really did have a lovely view. Yeh.

Pat: We've gone from one extreme to the other actually, haven't we? I mean in our day, there weren't many places you could go and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, were there? There weren't many. there were a few but not many, and that was really special because it had such a lovely view. And now we're pverrun with them aren't we?

Deborah Yes, yeh, almost every third...premises is a coffee shop.

Pat: Yeh (laugh)Cos I can remember saying to a friend of mine. a few years ago now, "I do wish there were more places when you could go and have a cup of coffee or a cup of tea and a cake. Or you know... not a burger and a plate of fish and chips or something. Somewhere where you could have nice afternoon tea." And now we're overrun with all sorts of..

Deborah: Yes. You got your wish! Be careful what you wish for!

(Laughter)