

VIDEO INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

Ruddock, Joan & Cooper, Jeff: transcript of a video interview (07-Jun-2016)

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Biography: Dame Joan Ruddock DBE BSc ARCS (b. 1943) was a Member of Parliament (MP) for Lewisham Deptford from 1987 to 2015. In 1989 she brought forward a Private Members' Bill on fly-tipping that became the Control of Pollution Act 1989 and, in 2003, a Private Members' Bill that became the Household Waste Recycling Act 2003. In 2007 she became Parliamentary Under Secretary in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and requested the waste brief, serving as Minister for Biodiversity, Climate Change and Waste until she joined the newly created Department for Energy and Climate Change in October 2008. Dame Joan gave her final speech to the House of Commons on 26 March 2015.

Biography: Mr Jeff Cooper MSc (b. 1949) became Waste Recycling Coordinator at the Greater London Council in 1982. He was subsequently appointed Waste Planner for the London Waste Regulation Authority (LWRA) where he also represented the International Solid Waste Association's recycling working group as its Vice-Chair. He joined the newly-formed Environment Agency in 1996 on a project for the development of regulations for packaging waste. He was elected Junior Vice President of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management in 2004, and served as President from 2007 to 2008. Since 2009 he has worked as an independent consultant and journalist.

JR: Joan Ruddock

JC: Jeff Cooper

[01]. EARLY LIFE AND UNIVERSITY; DISCOVERING POLITICS

JR: Well, I think I first got interested in politics when I was at school. At the time there was a lot of controversy, not just in the UK but in the States, about relations between black and white people. We didn't have any race relations laws in those days and I began to see a lack of justice in this and my parents kind of explained it to me when I was quite young that black people and white people couldn't really marry because it was just not really fair on the children because the children would be discriminated against. And I just couldn't figure out why they should be. It just seemed to me to be extraordinary. And that was one of my early political thoughts. My other one arose from my father's influence because he was a supervisor in the factory and when our neighbours, who were the operatives on the floor of the factory, went on strike then people wouldn't talk to my mother and so it was all a bit difficult and I thought, 'Well, why is that? There must be, why are the men striking? They must have a reason for the striking?' My father said, 'Oh, it's all reds under the beds' and this sort of thing and I couldn't quite figure this either because you know they were the fathers of my friends and they were perfectly normal men as far I knew. I didn't know. Anyway so these are the kind of things I grew up with questioning and that questioning is what one understands actually as being political thought.

* Interview conducted by Ms Lynda Finn, with additional questions by Mr Alan Yabsley, for the History of Modern Biomedicine Research Group, 07 June 2016, in the School of History, Queen Mary University of London. Transcribed by Mrs Debra Gee, and edited by Mr Alan Yabsley and Professor Tilli Tansey.

And then I went, probably the most significant thing that happened, I did have a boyfriend who later became my husband who was very, very political so that was clearly an influence but the person who made the biggest impact on me was when I went to a conference when I was in the Lower Sixth of my school, to a conference called 'Black and White' and the speaker was the General Secretary of the Fabian Society, who at that time was Shirley Williams. She wasn't a Member of Parliament but she was a staunch feminist and socialist in those days, and I'd never heard a feminist or a socialist speak, and I was mightily impressed. And I sort of thought, 'That's the sort of person whose philosophy and whose understanding of life, whatever, politics, that's the sort of person I think is the sort of person I could follow, I could believe in. I think I like that.' And so when I got to university I joined the Labour Club and then I became politically active in that way.

I was in a University, Imperial [College], where I think we were about 160 girls and about, I imagine, about 4,000 men. So this was a very, very unusual environment because I'd been to an all-girls school. So I then had to assert myself so I became the Chair of the International Relations Club and became very interested in foreign affairs, and I was interested in the environment because I was a botanist. And in this way all my sort of political ideas came together, I became a campaigner for causes, but I never wanted to become a professional politician for the simple reason that I thought it was a filthy game.

[02]. A BACKGROUND IN SCIENCE, AND CND

JR: After I left university I was a scientist but I decided to abandon my science, although I did research in genetics for a while, and I went to work for Shelter. And that led me into all sorts of campaigns and different jobs, all in the voluntary sector. But again the turning point of my life was an accident of history and geography. I went to live near the Greenham Common base in Berkshire and the Americans decided to site cruise missiles. I then got involved in the anti-cruise missile campaign and then became the Chairperson of CND [Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament]. So that put me into a national arena where I obviously had to be very political and then I stood as the Parliamentary candidate for the Newbury constituency literally because absolutely nobody else was prepared to do it. But having done it I then wanted to do it again and that was strange because I had previously decided, although some friends had tried to persuade me I should stand for Parliament, I had always said I wouldn't do it because I thought it was just a filthy game. I didn't like the party politics at a professional level, didn't think it was for me, but I did think that all the problems I dealt with at the CAB [Citizens Advice Bureau] which repeated themselves again and again, were things that would be better addressed if one tried to solve those problems by legislation, by being in public life in Parliament. And so eventually all these things came together and I got lots of requests to stand because people knew of me because of my chairing of CND.

At the end of my stint as the Chair of CND I decided I wanted to get back to party politics. I then contested my home seat, which was in, my home location rather, which was Pontypool in South Wales and I was the runner up. And then I thought, 'That's it, they don't want me, I'm not going to do this.' And then I got a note from Harriet Harman, who I didn't know except by reputation, who said, 'Deptford is wide open, Joan. Go for it.' And at that time I'd moved out of London, I didn't know Deptford, I didn't know south east London at all. But I thought, 'Well, somebody like Harriet is saying you should go for it, then you ought to go for it.' And after eight months of a very bitter contest and near suspension of the constituency by the National Executive Party, I was finally selected as the candidate for Lewisham and Deptford in 1987.

I would have contested the selection in Pontypool in sort of '85, '86 and then the contest for Lewisham/Deptford ran, as I said, for about eight months in 1986. The election then was in 1987.

Well, the sitting MP for Lewisham and Deptford when the contest began was someone called John Silkin, who had been a member of the Cabinet under Labour Governments. He was an old style patrician. He had a grand house in Kent and a flat in the area of the division bell in Westminster and he had acquired a party that had become pretty much dominated by the hard left in a number of interests, and they decided to get rid of him. And to be honest, you know, I think they were partly responsible for the fact that he

died prematurely because he had two years of turmoil with the party. Eventually he said, 'Okay, that's it, I'm not putting up with this.' And so he accepted a place in the Lords which he never got to because he died. But they were looking for somebody much more radical than John and of course some more reasonable people in the CLP [Constituency Labour Party] thought, 'Yes, that's right, but you know we want a reasonable person, somebody who is going to be a good MP.' So they coalesced around me and the other people made the mistake in the end of splitting their own vote with two candidates, both of whom I think would have had great difficulties managing being an MP as it happens. But anyway, I came through and got the seat.

[03]. A TROUBLED BEGINNING IN POLITICS

JR: Well, one of the things that had happened in the selection was the party had put in place what was then an illegal black section and that's what led to the near-suspension of the CLP. And at that point a member of the NEC [National Executive Committee] of the party had come to me and said, 'Joan, we are going to suspend Deptford again,' because they had been previously suspended for two years. And they said, 'But don't worry, we'll impose you.' And I said, 'No, I won't be imposed. Either I win in a contest or that's it. If you seek to impose a candidate, it's not me.' So they backed off. But that had meant that towards the end of the selection there was a particularly bitter struggle and the two candidates that I beat were both black. So this is a very, very tricky situation. And so the actual selection contest was very uncomfortable, it went on for many, many hours. At the end of it when I was then selected and being congratulated by all my supporters, the Secretary came up to me and she said, 'Joan, you will never stand here again.' So there was a bit of me which was kind of thrilled, absolutely thrilled. 'I battled my way through, I'm now the candidate for Lewisham/Deptford,' or I will be when the election comes, and at the same time I knew the Secretary of the party with which I was going to be working day in day out had said, essentially, her strategy would be to get rid of me before the next election. So it was a very mixed feeling that night but nonetheless I still went to celebrate with my friends.

[04]. INITIAL EXPERIENCES AS A CONSTITUENCY MP

JR: I think for a lot of Members of Parliament going into a situation where you are a Member of the Opposition is not so difficult when you enter because of course you've been in opposition all during the campaign. Everything you've been saying has been in opposition to the sitting Government. So you know what you're used to saying and doing and thinking is no different inside the Parliament from outside the Parliament. So yes, there's a disappointment if you were expecting the party to win but I'm afraid in 1987 we didn't expect to win. So I kind of knew what I was going to be facing. And that was not a surprise therefore. The big surprises were 41 women only, in over 600 Members of Parliament. And so I had come from a place, though similar at Imperial, but where I had been respected and treated equally as a scientist. I didn't have a problem at Imperial. Immediately I was in the Commons I knew I had a problem being a woman. There was overt sexism, people were patronising, it was a really very difficult environment. There was a lot of intimidation and there was, it was a time when the Whips of both parties were absolutely dominant and so it was like children joining a school class for the first time and the rest of the pupils had been there and were well-established. And so it was the new kids have got to be demonstrated to be, you know, hopeless failures and kind of you know oddballs or whatever. But a lot of pressure.

And the second thing which was really quite extraordinary, and fortunately because of the Citizens' Advice Bureau, I was equipped to deal with it, but that pressure from the constituency was enormous. It was partly because I had a very high profile but when I arrived there was a sackful, literally a sack, of mail waiting for me, people wanting me to deal with their problems. My surgeries were absolutely overwhelmed. So the amount of work and the fact that you had to take on all of that, people demanding of you, at the same time you had to be performing, you had to be speaking, you had to be asking questions. Everything just about was unfamiliar. So getting lost was what used to happen, literally getting lost. I asked for a map. I went to the library and said, 'Can I have a map, please?' They said, 'Madam, security!' [Laughter]. You know it was a place where people really tried to put you down actually, and I spoke out about it quite a few times but the men just told me, 'Stop whingeing.'

[05]. EXPERIENCES OF SEXISM IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

JR: I think my worst experience of sexism, for example when I first arrived, this is not a bad experience but one of the Tory grandees swept across the lobby as I entered the lobby and went down on his knees and took my hand and kissed it. You know, which is a kind of bizarre experience [laughs], as you arrive as, you think, a fully-fledged politician representing your constituency, part of a democracy. He thought it was a bit of fun and I squirmed and I just thought, this is not appropriate. But that's trivial. The worst thing was I was speaking in a debate on the armed forces and they were strip searching women in Northern Ireland at the time and so I was speaking out about the practice of strip searching and one of the Tory MPs said across the chamber, from a sedentary position, 'Oh, I'd like to strip search you any day.' And the Speaker didn't turn a hair, nobody was concerned about such a remark. Today of course anybody making a remark anywhere near that would be immediately ordered from the Commons. But this is how it was and there are some things that I couldn't even speak about that didn't happen to me but did happen to some other, women colleagues at the time. And something that did happen as late as, when did Stella Creasy arrive? That must have been in 2010 I think, and Stella, who is, looks very, very young and is very blonde and slight, went up to a lift in the Commons to get into it, a "Members Only" lift, to be told by a middle-aged Tory MP, man of course, 'Excuse me, this lift is only for Members.' Of course she said, 'I am a Member.' But the assumption was she was somebody's secretary.

[06]. CASELOAD OF A NEW MP; THE SILWOOD ESTATE WASTE ISSUE

JR: The caseload for a new MP is incredibly varied of course. One of the interesting things it always contains is a lot of letters from prisoners, all of whom protest their innocence. And I had my fair share of those because I think there was a pretty high proportion of people who ended up in jail, rightly or wrongly, in this case wrongly one of them, from my constituency. And so you know I had to write back what were pretty standard letters at the time to prisoners saying, 'Well, you've been through the justice system and is there new evidence and do you need a solicitor?' and all of those things. But I had one, one letter, and obviously I'm not going to go down this path now, but just to say because it was so interesting. Somehow the letter made an impact on me that stood out from the rest and to cut a long story short, many, many years later we managed to get this guy, his conviction, overturned. And he was in for murder, he always protested his innocence so he could never get parole, and with a lot of help actually from Ludovic Kennedy as it happened, there was a great campaign which I was part of, and we got him released.

But apart from that really very striking case there were many, many run of the mill, which were all about housing and social security, immigration of course in my constituency, all of these issues which were with me for 28 years. But there was one that was extraordinary, it came from a council housing estate called the Silwood Estate and the people there were suffering the most incredible fly-tipping.

So what was happening was lorries would come rushing down the street, they would be full of rubble and they'd be shedding rubble and rubbish and dust and if anybody got anywhere near the lorries they'd be run over because they were absolutely horrendous. They would turn the corner, dump their load and then drive off at great speed. Some of the residents had been protesting that they couldn't get anywhere. They'd been onto the Council, the Council said they couldn't do anything. Well, of course, with being naïve, a new Member of Parliament, I said, 'Well, of course I'll deal with it' without the slightest idea of how I'd deal with it. And so I started, I had a meeting with the Environment Agency, no, the Environment Agency didn't exist at the time. No, it was with the, it was actually with Jeff's [Cooper] organisation, wasn't it? It was the London Waste Regulation Authority. I had a meeting with the Council of course, the CEO of the Council and in fact with the CEO of the LWRA as well. And they both said, 'Look, we haven't got powers, we're limited in what we can do, and the truth is, Joan,' they literally said to me, 'Don't get involved. These people go around with sawn-off shotguns. Just don't do it.' I said, 'Well, I can't not do it because people think their Member of Parliament must be able to deal with this.'

[07]. DANGER OF UNREGISTERED WASTE CARRIERS; THE NEED TO LEGISLATE

JR: The tenants of the Silwood Housing Estate came to me to show me what was happening at the perimeter of their estate. Obviously I'd been on there canvassing all the time and I'd seen that there was a lot of rubble and desolation around the perimeter but I was too busy knocking on doors to think about it. And then they were telling me, 'Look what's happening here.' And once I went to look at the site, 10,000 tonnes of rubble from construction works that were then being undertaken to build Docklands, had been dumped on that site. And they were being dumped by men who came in lorries at any time of night or day. The lorries would cascade rubbish and gravel and soil and spoil off the back of the lorries all around the roads. They would just rush past houses, dust everywhere, turn the corner, dump their load and back again. And nothing that residents could do. If they challenged them at all they were roundly abused and frankly their lives were in danger. They could have been run down at any time. So it was a terrible problem and that was the problem that I said, 'Somehow I'm going to solve this.'

The cost of taking the waste away legally, well it was considerable in their eyes, and actually they needed to take it outside London because there weren't many places to take it to, and so they just had this racket and it was incredible. And so ultimately I said to the Silwood tenants, 'The only thing that will work is a change in the law, and if I win a place in the Private Members' Bill Ballot I will try to change the law.' Again, it was just so unlikely for anybody, the odds are so against anybody winning a place in the Private Members' Bill Ballot and even if they do, the odds against them of getting a Bill through are very considerable. So it was a pretty foolish promise, as it happened.

[08]. THE SITUATION PRIOR TO THE BILL

JR: Well, we might ask Jeff here. I think a law was broken because clearly this amounted to a public nuisance if nothing else. It amounted to an environmental hazard because a lot of the materials contained all kinds of pollutants and you know you could have contaminated earth and concrete and everything being dug up in these areas and loaded onto lorries and being dumped. And there was obviously glass and all sorts of things. But it was the penalties, the power to actually get hold of these people that was the main issue. You know you couldn't, they came, they went, sometimes they would have such thick dust you couldn't even see what the registration number was. But there was no mechanism for actually controlling the carriage of industrial and construction waste and also there was no means of being able to stop or seize the lorries or anything of that kind. And so even though the people on the estate regularly, where they could, they recorded the registration numbers of the vehicles so there was a record and you could see a pattern, but there still wasn't a means to do anything sufficiently substantial to end the practice. And it was in many boroughs, poor boroughs in London, it wasn't just Lewisham.

JC: Well, the situation prior to Joan's Private Members' Bill becoming an Act was, as she described it, was very difficult. You could prosecute somebody but you would have to literally catch them in the act. And the real difficulty was that there was no means of checking on anybody because there was no mechanism for ensuring that people were registered to carry waste.

JR: That's right. They didn't have to be registered.

JC: They didn't have to be registered prior.

JR: You could simply say 'It wasn't me.' And Jeff's point about you had to catch them, you'd have had to have people in authority standing there 24/7. That's what you'd have to have.

JC: So you actually needed the police to be doing something but at that time it wasn't a priority as far as the police were concerned.

JR: Well, actually by the time I started to get active in the Commons on the issue, yes, I did discuss it with them but initially of course I didn't realise it was anything but a very local problem. But it was the people

working for Lewisham Council in Environmental Health who told me that you know they had colleagues in Southwark and one day they came and said to me, a kind of vindication of their warnings to me actually, that one of the officers in Southwark, his wife, he'd been very active trying to do something, and his wife had had somebody come to her front door with a sawn-off shotgun and threatened her that her husband needed to stop poking his nose in. So yes, it was happening.

[09]. HOW THE BALLOT WORKS, AND A STROKE OF GOOD FORTUNE

JR: Well, the Ballot for Private Members' Bills always used to come in November because that was following the Queen's Speech, and before the fixed-term Parliaments that was the sort of rhythm of the Parliamentary cycle, that the Queen's Speech was held in November. And then you would be invited to go along as a Back Bencher, if you were a Minister of course or a Shadow Minister, no I think a Shadow Minister could actually do it as well. You would go along and there is a book, the Clerks have a book and it's all ruled and there's a number, obviously numbered sequentially to about 400 I think. And you write your name against a number and then they do a ballot. I imagine it's all done by computers now but in the early days I suppose they might have put numbers into a hat, I don't know. Anyway, by some mechanism of balloting they choose I think my recollection is up to 20 people from the hundreds and hundreds that put in, but only the first six are guaranteed time. So the others can have a go but they will not get anywhere. But the first six are guaranteed parliamentary time to try to bring a Bill through the Parliament. And I came out as number five, and that was 1988. So I'd only been a Member of Parliament for a year-and-a-half. I don't know if I even put in the very first time because it might have been so new I didn't get round to it or didn't know about it.

But to win after such a short time and to get within the first six was pretty much a miracle. But having got it there wasn't the slightest doubt what I had to do because as soon as you've got a place, as soon as it's announced in the daytime, people contact your office immediately and impress upon your staff that you've got to take up this issue or that issue or whatever it is. And I was able to say to my researcher, 'This is the standard letter you're going to send to everybody,' because it was mostly letters in those days, 'which is going to say that I've made a commitment to my constituents and that's what I'm intending to do. So thank you very much for your interest but I won't be taking up your ideas.'

[10]. DRAFTING THE BILL

JR: When I found that I was number five I was absolutely elated for a few minutes, then I realised, 'My goodness, you know, I don't know anything about how to bring forward a Private Members' Bill.' So I went to the Whips who are supposed to be the font of all knowledge and protection of Members of Parliament. And the Whips just took one look at me and dismissed me and said, 'Well, that's your problem. We have nothing to do with Private Members' Bills.' Today it's very, very different. The Whips realise it's in the interest of their party and reputation and everything that Private Members' Bills put up by their own Members should be supported, but not then. So fortunately I could turn to Joan Walley, who was a good friend of mine, and she had been in Lambeth Council and I think she must have been on the Environment Committee. She was very hot on the environment and so she knew about the Institute of Environmental Health, I think it was called. So she recommended me to go to them. They said they were absolutely delighted but they said, 'Really, we think your best bet is to go to the LWRA.'

So I said, 'Great, that's what I will do'. But in the meantime I actually had to find out what are the steps that you do in Parliament.

So I didn't know obviously what I had to do to bring forward a Private Members' Bill so I was given one useful piece of information which was that I would be able to meet with a Clerk of the House, who was responsible for overseeing Private Members' Bills. So I went to see him. He explained I would have three weeks in which to decide what I wanted to put in my Bill, but I didn't have to write up the whole Bill within the three weeks, what I had to do was establish the most important thing, 'the long title'. Now the long title was a mystery. I knew that I wanted a Bill to outlaw fly-tipping but he explained that we could

put a short title in which would be about the carriers of waste, but we would have to have a much longer title if I wanted to do the things that I explained to him I wanted to do i.e. seize lorries and haul people into court and you know stop them and all that sort of thing. So what we eventually agreed was that there were these two aspects of the Bill, there would be. One was to provide a licensing system for the carriers of waste, which he, because they do this sort of thing, he would contact the civil servants in the relevant Ministry and he would have known that they were going to be sympathetic to bringing in some certification system. But he would also have known that they were wholly unsympathetic to everything else I wanted to do. But of course it was his chance, a proper civil servant, a proper professional, to devise a long and Delphic sentence that covered everything that I might conceivably want to do. And so it was not only to provide for the registration but it was to provide for any other measures that might be appropriate in dealing with those who carried waste illegally. So we got the long title settled and that was the beginning of the process.

[11]. JEFF COOPER AND THE LWRA; MEETING JOAN RUDDOCK

JC: I first met Joan in the goods section of a train that was going from Preston over to Blackpool North. This was the start of the Labour Party conference. Why were we in a goods section? Well, it was because there were so many people on the train and so many people changing at Preston that we'd run out of space. So I actually got chatting to Joan because I was, at that time, the Chair of the Socialist Environment and Resources Association and I knew that Joan was very interested in environmental issues generally. So we got to know each other quite well from that. And then subsequently Joan was actually very useful to us when she became an MP because she sponsored a number of meetings in the House of Commons and in fact on the day of the Ballot, it was actually quite good because Joan said to me at the beginning of our meeting, 'If I'm successful in the Ballot for Private Members' Bills I'm going to do something about fly-tipping and I hope that you're going to help.' And then by the end of that meeting I knew that she'd come fifth in the Ballot and she said, 'Well, we've got to do something.' So I said, 'Well, I'll see what I can do in terms of getting some support from the London Waste Regulation Authority.' And that was really the start of our connection with regard to supporting this particular Private Members' Bill.

[12]. RALLYING SUPPORT FOR THE BILL; JEFF COOPER AND JOAN WYKES

JC: In 1988 my role within the London Waste Regulation Authority was a very odd one in that I was there as the Waste Recycling Officer but I also had responsibility for promotion and publicity on behalf of the LWRA. And I had actually quite a free hand with regard to my activities. I was allowed to do a lot of things which frankly were beyond the remit of my job, which was actually quite fortunate. So as I say I was Chair of the Socialist Environment and Resources Association, which is why we had this meeting at the House of Commons on the day that the Private Members' Ballot actually was announced. So it was, it was very fortunate that there was this early entrée. But it did mean that I took on some degree of responsibility on behalf of the London Waste Regulation Authority to provide this support to Joan and I was very pleased to do so. I mean it was a new experience for all of us inside the London Waste Regulation Authority to do something like this, to get very actively involved in trying to sort out some of the problems that we faced, you know, not just Joan's constituents but it was actually problems that we faced throughout London and nationally as well. And I suppose that was one of the difficulties that I faced. I had to make the case for supporting a Private Members' Bill on behalf of the London Waste Regulation Authority, which was actually quite a difficult thing to do because at that time the London Waste Regulation Authority was Conservative controlled.

So I had, as my political boss, somebody called Councillor Joan Wykes, who was a Member for Bromley and therefore not well-disposed towards Joan Ruddock. So I was sort of squeezed between these two Joans'.

JR: Yes.

JC: However...

JR: She [Wykes] was a great supporter.

JC: She was a great supporter, but it took an awful lot of discussion over an extended telephone call to persuade her that...

JR: I wasn't the devil incarnate. [Laughs].

JC: Well, absolutely. I mean this was the problem politically as well as personally, Joan Wykes was not initially enamoured in terms of support for this Private Members' Bill. But nevertheless she did become a very great supporter and it meant therefore there were some resources that became available in the LWRA in order to support this Private Members' Bill including, and this was also fortunate, one of our legal advisors. Now we had a number of legal advisors but this one was actually from New Zealand and she, I have to say, was very, very good because she was determined herself to learn as much as she could with regard to this particular aspect of legislation. So she did a heck of a lot of background work and was very helpful in terms of liaising with our external advisors in order to produce this actually in retrospect quite a complex Bill. Private Members' Bills tend to be quite short but this one, because Joan had these ambitions with regard to registration of carriers, seizure of vehicles and so on, she really wanted a fairly comprehensive framework to stop these people in their tracks.

[13]. A BILL OF TWO PARTS

JC: In the context of developing the draft legislation certainly the civil servants at the Department of the Environment were very supportive.

JR: Absolutely.

JC: But we did have difficulty with regard to the Home Office because the seizure of vehicles provision was one that they were very unhappy about and also the extra controls that you wanted inserted with regard to demolition and construction waste as well. And they were unhappy about why it was that we had these extra controls over that particular type of waste and why we needed to actually seize the vehicles. However, it took a lot of negotiating but eventually even the Home Office conceded that without those provisions the Act itself, or the Bill as it then was, wouldn't have the kind of teeth that was required to do...

JR: You make it sound quite simple, Jeff [laughs] whereas you know it absolutely wasn't because I mean we were working from, we got the Bill, or a place in the Ballot on 1st December and I think it was 24th February the following year that we got our second reading. That's the first time that you actually have a debate on a Bill in the Commons. At that point it's very important that the politics of this, as you said earlier about Joan Wykes, because we had Virginia Bottomley was the Environment Minister, we had Nicholas Ridley who was the Secretary of State, and who was an incredibly difficult man. And at the second reading, Virginia who you know I got on with well, we had a very interesting comment that day from her which was that she was there as a female Minister, I was there as the presenter of the Bill, a woman, Joan Walley was the Shadow Environment Minister, and in the Chair was the Deputy Speaker Betty Boothroyd. And you know Virginia, who again was a bit of a quiet feminist, pointed out that this was probably unprecedented, that all the leading figures on that day in the chamber were women. Anyway Virginia was very nice about the first part of the Bill, which of course her civil servants at the Department of the Environment were very glad to have, to register carriers of waste.

And you remember, you know, she said obviously they were very supportive of that but they could not accept Part Two of the Bill. Part Two of the Bill was where we had all the really radical and important measures that would make it work and they were all under the control of the Home Office. The Home Office didn't want it and she said, speaking obviously for the Government as a lead Minister, that they couldn't accept it. So although the second reading was agreed and we knew therefore that we were getting

to committee, it was obvious that in committee they would try to emasculate the Bill. Of course even on a Private Members' Bill you're going to have, you know, the Government controlling things and so I knew from that point, from speaking privately, that what they wanted to do at that point was actually just get rid of Part Two. They just wanted to have the bit they liked. And one night I was in the lobby, you know we always had late nights, late night sittings, all night sittings at times, and Nicholas Ridley came up to me at the back of the chamber and sort of pointed his finger between my eyes and said, 'We could blow you out of the water.'

[14]. THE FIRST BILL; CROSS-PARTY SUPPORT AND THE LWRA

JR: You know, how threatening is this? I'm a completely new female MP, this is one of the, you know, Secretaries of State and here he is pointing his finger at me and being very threatening. Anyway, I just you know said, it was suggested to me, because obviously we'd met with the civil servants and they said to me, 'Look, your Bill will go through, it's guaranteed if you drop Part Two.' And I said, 'No.' Because I knew to have, as we had in Part One, a scheme which would mean that you had to register as a carrier of waste. If you were going to put lorries on the road carrying waste you had to be registered, you had to have a certificate to show you were registered. Well, what was going to happen there? Because these bully boys, these criminals, they would choose not to register and they'd still go on and you'd still be then trying to stop them and get them into court for a failure to have themselves registered, a much lesser offence than actually dumping of waste. It was a nonsense. You had to have more so I said, 'You've got to have more.' And so we persevered.

You knew very well, your organisation knew very well, the fact we had your Chairwoman [Wykes], the fact that I had as a sponsor and supporter, Sir Hugh Rossi, who was a Chair of the Select Committee, Sir George Young as well, you know significant Tories who supported us, not because they wanted to support me of course but because they knew that this was a scourge that had to be dealt with and that why should they be on the side of criminals? I think that was a key thing wasn't it? These were criminals. So the fact that we were talking about something that was anathema to Tories, which was more police powers to seize property, which is what we wanted, that was quite secondary to the fact that they knew you particularly, your staff, were dealing with hardened criminals.

But it was the fact that these illegal operations were being undertaken on a huge scale by hardened criminals, I think that did make an impression and in the end they came onto our side.

JC: They did, yes.

JR: But it was very, very important the role of the London Waste Regulation Authority, it was very important. Well, I'm sure I couldn't have done this without the sort of technical backup that I got.

JC: Well, we were very happy to provide it because we knew that once we had those powers, or once we had staff in place, then we could actually clamp down on fly-tipping and so it did prove to be the case. I mean it was actually quite good because immediately after the Act came into force we recruited an ex-police inspector, somebody called James Smith, who actually did a lot of the work and liaised obviously very closely with colleagues in the Metropolitan Police in order to seize a number of vehicles and impound them. And that was actually very encouraging as far as colleagues were concerned in other parts of the country.

JR: Absolutely, absolutely. No, you know, when we got that Bill, I think it was, or was it about July?

JC: It was July.

JR: July. So it had taken us a good seven months of terrifically hard work [laughs] and when we got that Bill you know you really felt, 'This is going to be a breakthrough' because if you could just nail those people, if you could just get them into court. They were never going to be fined as much as we wanted them to be

fined but the fact you could hold their, get their vehicles off them, stop them in their tracks, that was, that was really something. And you know in the constituency the Silwood tenants of course were absolutely over the moon.

[15]. THE FIRST BILL; MAKING AMENDMENTS

JR: Well, Jeff we need to sort of recap on this because what I, I remember very distinctly the fact that I was being told by Department of Environment civil servants, 'Look, get this Bill through, we want this Bill. Drop Part Two,' *etc. etc.* And then getting the opposition and then getting them to concede. But my recollection is that we did some sort of technical adjustments and I brought forward some amendments which made it slightly more acceptable. And I've got the feeling it was to do with getting the warrant.

JC: I think it was. I think that in the committee stage there were some changes that were made so that you had to have a police officer and an actual arrest. So it was not just powers for the Environment Agency but there had to be also a police officer doing the work.

JR: I think that's my recollection, that when I dug my heels in and said, 'No, I'm not going to drop Part Two. If I lose the Bill, I lose the Bill,' which of course I was thinking I couldn't lose the Bill but I had to be brave, as it were. [Laughs]. So I said, 'No, I will not drop Part Two.' And once we got to that point then I suppose realistically they thought, 'Well, maybe we could do something that makes it more acceptable' to them actually, it didn't concern anybody else but I think to them and to the sense they had about this being such a kind of serious thing to do to seize property, that they had to have some sort of cover for it. So I think that we originally, if I'm right, we probably, I'm sure I'm right when I think about it, we wanted local authority or LWRA officers to have the powers and what we were told was that the only way, this is what I think, that the only way they would conceded to support Part Two was by having a police officer present.

JC: That's right, it was.

JR: That's where I think we conceded ground because it was worth it to do that because we knew that you could bring about cooperation with the police because they would want some exemplars. So you might not get as many people but you'd certainly get some of the big guys, get them into court and that would be a...

JC: Well, that was it, yes. And that's effectively what did happen subsequently because on all the cases that we pursued, and all the arrests that were made, there was joint action between the London Waste Regulation Authority and the Metropolitan Police.

JR: It was probably safer for your officers. [Laughs].

JC: Well, indeed. I mean we were actually quite relieved.

JR: You were probably glad in the end.

JC: Because although at that time of course the police did not necessarily go armed onto these sites, there was at least the reassurance that armed backup could be made available.

JR: That's right, that's right.

[16]. THE FIRST ACT, AND A MULTI-AGENCY APPROACH TO ENFORCEMENT

JC: So once we had the Control of Pollution Amendment Act, 1989 in force it was actually a lot easier for our staff to do some thorough work in pursuing fly-tippers. And the kind of thing that used to happen was that we'd have a joint agency project involving the police and quite often we would have a number of

other activities being looked at very closely when we went to these premises. So we would be very proactive in actually pursuing these people in their own premises where they stored the vehicles. So we weren't just stopping them on the highways, we were actually going along and we were actually taking the vehicles from those premises. And you had things like red diesel being used, so that was again an offence.

JR: Oh yes, that's right, I remember.

JC: And you did end up with a whole list of charges. So they didn't have an operator's licence. So this was also important as well, that people needed an operator's licence in order to actually keep large vehicles. And so again you had a whole list of charges and you could take them through to the courts and if you weren't successful on one charge, you were certainly going to be successful on two or three of the other charges. So it was this multi-agency aspect that we focused on increasingly as we were doing work against the most criminal fly-tippers.

JR: And some of them ended up with quite substantial fines because, as you say, they were £5,000 and another £5,000 and so it mounted up when you had all these multiple charges against them. That's right.

JC: And some prison terms as well. Sometimes initially they were suspended but it did mean that they had the threat of imprisonment hanging over them. So...

JR: We did a good job.

JC: I think we did a very good job.

[17]. THE SECOND BILL; PROBLEMS OF LANDFILL

JR: And then amazingly in 2002, when of course by that time I was never expecting to win a place, I got a place again and I was number five again. And so I thought, 'Oh gosh, now this time I haven't got a ready-made idea, I haven't got a constituency issue that I've made any promises about or that's actually really top of my agenda.' But I had become, as Jeff referred to earlier, you know I'd worked in SERA [Socialist Environment and Resources Association] I think I'd become patron or something on the Executive over a period, I'd done a lot of environmental work. And I was very, very keen, as most environmentalists were at that time, on recycling. And of course Britain was so, so bad at recycling compared to many other European countries. And significantly there was a European directive, which was concerned with the amount of waste going to landfill because by this time people knew that landfill was very dangerous and it was very dangerous to the environment in general. People already knew about climate change, about methane gas, about the dangers from the sites, and there were even questions at that time, I'm not sure if they were ever proven, there were issues of concern about even birth defects arising from the pollution to households living very close to landfill.

JC: And that was particularly the case in South Wales.

JR: Yes, it was, wasn't it, Jeff? Yes there was, there was actually. And you know it isn't an odd thing to think, is it, when you think of heavy metal pollution, gasses, you know all these kinds of things, children growing up in that environment potentially people growing vegetables in contaminated soil, you know, all kinds of things. So it was a great concern and there was that issue about the problems of pollution caused by landfill but the other issue, which was so important and had had very little thought given to it, was the waste of resources. You know we were putting into the ground all these things, manufactures particularly, that we had taken from the ground in many cases and then we were just squandering them when they could have been recycled. And the issue of plastics of course was very, very significant because the use of plastics had grown exponentially and the persistence of plastics in the environment was now known to be a very serious matter. So there were a lot of drivers.

[18]. THE SECOND BILL; RECYCLING AND DOORSTEP COLLECTION

JR: I personally already had taken responsibility for my recycling because there was a group of people locally in Lewisham who ran a cooperative and they collected recycled materials from the doorstep. They gave you every week a series of plastic bags [laughs] with different colours and you put your recycling in and they came around and collected it. And they managed to keep a small business going for some years on this basis.

So I already paid for mine, I can't remember how much it was, maybe £5 a month, something like that, to do this. And it was very satisfactory and I saw the great potential of people having their waste collected on their doorstep because it suited me, why wouldn't it suit everybody? Anyway I wasn't alone because lots and lots of people in, particularly Friends of the Earth [FOE], had been pressing for this sort of thing and FOE had actually drafted a Bill for doorstep recycling. Now being Friends of the Earth it was massively ambitious. I think they had seven waste streams that they were going to propose for collection at the doorstep. At that time there were no outlets for the promise of seven waste streams in terms of recycling but nonetheless it was all there and this is what they wanted. So fortunately because of my experience of already doing one Private Members' Bill I knew this time just what to do. So I said to them, 'Look...'; there was Martin Williams, you remember Martin very well?

JC: Yes, I do.

JR: I said, 'Look, I would like to do this Bill but you have to understand this is my Bill, I know how to negotiate, I will have to do the negotiations. I want all the support in the world but I know it won't be your Bill in the way you want it but I can pretty much promise I'll get you a Bill. Of course I thought, 'This is a Labour Government, isn't it now? It's not the Tory Government that we might have had a contest with.' I thought 'a Labour Government is going to back me all the way.' I couldn't have been more wrong.

[19]. THE SECOND BILL: 'WHO PAYS?'

JR: So I started off and this time getting the title was not difficult because it was very clear, we wanted household waste to be recycled at the doorstep. And so we were able to get ahead and do that, get the cooperation with the Clerks, get the Bill drafted and set on our way. Then what happened was, having made the case, which was not difficult to make because the major thing that was happening at that time was people were taking their recycling materials to supermarkets, who had just started to provide big bins to collect various different things. But, as I pointed out in my second reading speech, 28% of people didn't own a car there were a lot of people who, they'd go on the bus or they'd walk or they could even take a taxi to the supermarket, or at least they'd take a taxi back when they had their shopping, but they were not in their own cars so they were not going to transport their waste from their home to the supermarket.

And the other argument was local authorities have a duty in law, which had been there for a very long time, to collect waste from the nearest point to the householder's front door.

So that, in addition to that duty, which obviously worked for people with individual homes where they were detached or terraced, or wherever they were, but of course also with the development of so many estates with blocks of flats, the provision had been made by most local authorities for very large containers to which people again could take their waste. So it was quite clear to me you could have collection from the doorstep and you could have collection from recycled large waste bins if you were dealing with lots of flats and communal facilities. So we set out to make the case, lots and lots of support, lots of support in the Commons from all sides of the House. You know recycling thought to be quite cool, as it was. And that all went quite well initially. But then of course, as inevitably arises with many Governments, there's a question of 'Who pays?' And that became the sticking point. That became a sticking point because I think already by that time, the Labour Government had made a promise to local

government, again you may know this, I think they had made a promise not to impose new powers on them. The deal was if central government was going to impose new, not powers, duties, new duties on local authorities then they would have to compensate them financially and that was the deal that local government had wrought with the government that they, you know, they... Because at that time there was a lot of environmental legislation, a lot of things happening. They were complaining, 'We don't have the resources,' and then people said, 'Well, we'll have to get new waste lorries, we'll have to get new bins, we'll have to get...' and you know once you got into the practicalities of it you could see that this was quite an issue, you know, it was much bigger than my local co-op taking my bags away.

[20]. THE SECOND BILL; MARKET FORCES AND TROUBLE WITH THE TREASURY

JR: So the case had to be made. Michael Meacher was the Environment Minister and he was very enthusiastic so I thought we were getting on very, very well. I think everything's going very smoothly and then suddenly there's this, I think we got to about the next May. We'd had our Second Reading and the Government had let the Bill go into Committee but had expressed the deepest, deepest reservations to me about how demanding we were being in the Bill. And so one of the things we settled on, I think I'd got it down to about five waste streams because I knew there just weren't markets for some of the things, but in the end we agreed to the wording 'at least two', again because they were so concerned that local authorities would not be able, actually, to cope. And it was a fair argument that if they were going to start off with doing a job which they hadn't done before then they would have to probably grow exponentially. No, that's the wrong word, I think, they would probably have to ease themselves into this business. But I took the view that if we said 'at least two' mostly they'd go for three because I was thinking they'll do plastics, they'll definitely do bottles, and they'll definitely do paper, because we knew there were markets for paper and card, that there were markets for bottles, those two were very obvious. And the biggest complaints from the public were about plastics.

JC: They were. That was mainly because when you look at anybody's bin, what you see is the plastics in there. There's not much in the way of weight but the volume is just huge.

JR: It's the volume, that's exactly right. And so even though we knew that there was a very limited market because of the lack of technology actually for recycling, we knew there was only a limited market for the bottles but there were so many of them that it was going to be worthwhile. So I really thought, 'They'll go for the three and that's what we'll start off with' and that's not a bad thing to have three streams when you had none. So everything was going very well five months on and then Michael Meacher, I'll never forget it, it was, we were in the voting lobby and Michael kind of sidled-up to me and said, 'Joan, I'm really sorry but I've just seen the draft letter that Margaret Beckett is sending,' - Margaret Beckett was the Secretary of State for the Environment - 'that she's sending around the Cabinet explaining why your Bill will be voted down.' I was absolutely floored because it had huge popular support, didn't it?

JC: It did, yes.

JR: I mean MPs' post, I think every MP got a thousand letters, you know, they were all Friends of the Earth supporters, but local authorities, there were lots of progressive local authorities that wanted to do this. So it was like, 'Oh, I can't believe it. At this stage my own Government is going to snatch this Bill away from me.' And I said to Michael, 'Why, what is it?' And he said, 'It's Gordon. It's Gordon. He will not agree,' whether it was Gordon personally but the Treasury would not agree. They couldn't get agreement from the Treasury and so Margaret just said, 'That's it. If the Treasury won't agree then there is no Bill and we will organise for it to be talked out, voted out, whatever.'

[21]. THE SECOND BILL; PERSUADING GORDON BROWN

JR: So I had actually arranged, organised, an exhibition of recyclers to coincide with the Second Reading of my Bill and I got some absolutely amazing exhibits, you know. I had companies from all over the country who wanted to come and exhibit. In the end I think I managed to put about 20 of them into the Atlee

Room and they showed us amazing, amazing things that came from recycled materials. And one of the things that was so intriguing to people who are non-scientists was fleeces were very popular in those days, you know the things that you zip up the front and they were kind of woolly and warm and highly fashionable, and there was a company that produced these glorious deep red, very luxurious fleeces. And of course they were all made from plastic bottles because you know it's just a polymer, you take it, re-spin it, you know, you've got a fleece. But that transformation was so difficult for people to imagine, it didn't seem likely or possible.

So I thought, 'That's particularly stunning.' Another thing that I thought was stunning, and this is really me because I'm a gardener, was they had produced flower pots which were brown, looked and felt identical to plastic. As far as you knew you had a plastic flower pot the same as any other flower pot but they were actually biodegradable. And so I thought, 'These are so amazing.' I'm going to go, I mean I didn't know whether Gordon Brown would see me [laughs]. I was a little back bencher and I didn't really know Gordon well. Of course I knew him but I wasn't on chatting terms with him so I asked to see him. So I went in, I put the red fleece and the plastic pot on his desk, and I said, 'Gordon, just look at those.' I mean he would not be the wearer of a red fleece, would he? [Laughs]. I don't think he was a gardener either but I explained to him how these two manufactures had come about and I said, 'Look, Gordon, there are two issues here. One is new industry, new jobs, green jobs, work for people. You know the possibilities are endless. And secondly, the EU is going to fine us hundreds of millions of pounds. Your department is going to have to find the money because we're going to be fined because we're putting too much in landfill. And the growth in waste is so great that actually you can't escape that unless you do recycling.' The next thing I knew the Government was accepting my Bill.

[22]. THE HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING ACT 2003; HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPACTS

JC: So the important thing about the Household Waste Recycling Act, 2003 was that it led to even more local authorities implementing collections of recyclable waste from the doorstep of the household or in the case of blocks of flats, from central facilities that were provided for the whole flat. But for me the important thing was that we were actually moving very much faster along the road to where many of our European neighbours had been going. And particularly I'm thinking here of Germany where they had implemented a progressive system of collections of recyclable waste including all the packaging waste, and in particular the light materials such as plastics, aluminium and steel cans. Now for me actually collecting those lighter items is very important because of the issue of embedded carbon and if one looks at the wider perspective of the move away from landfill then you've actually got a good mechanism for converting more waste into useable resources. And there are of course still existing requirements for us in the UK to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill and recycling has an important part to play there. And although obviously there's other things that you can do with waste such as incineration with energy recovery you only want to use that in the case that you can't actually recycle material. So for me we've got a very important mechanism that you introduced to encourage all local authorities to undertake doorstep collection and quite often these days it's done using wheeled bins. Now for me the development of the wheeled bin, which was first used to collect residual waste, was very important in Health and Safety terms.

JR: Absolutely, yes.

JC: Because one of the problems that we've always had in this country is that people end up with injuries as a result of picking up black sacks that have got glass in them or sharp objects of some sort, and giving themselves an injury. So for me overall if you look at the development of our waste collection infrastructure, the use of wheeled bins has been very important. Now we're using, able to collect most recyclables. The thing that I don't like is the fact that quite often local authorities collecting glass...

JR: Yes, along with paper and plastic.

JC: Mixed-up, yes. So you end up unfortunately contaminating quite a lot of the other recyclables with small pieces of glass. That is something that I think needs to be dealt with separately but that's just my opinion

from long experience as the one-time Chair of the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee all the way through from 1984 to 1996 when I joined the Environment Agency.

JR: Well, I agree with you that you know it's not been an entirely smooth path and there are better means of recycling, and indeed there's more money to be made if you can offer a pure product. And so of course quite a few local authorities collect their paper and cardboard separately to ensure they don't get the glass contamination. And then of course you've got these big MRFs [Material Recovery Facility] where they have to go and pick all the different things off the conveyor belt. But it's led to a huge new industry, to a lot of jobs, to a lot of things.

[23]. RECYCLING: THE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE; BECOMING MINISTER FOR WASTE

JR: I still always have in mind the saving of resources because we are absolutely raping the world of its metals particularly and it was total madness to then bury them in the earth never to be used again.

JC: Absolutely.

JR: It was an unbelievable thing. And of course people in past generations would never have considered doing anything so daft. It was just for a period of time that we thought we did this.

JC: You've got this strange aberration haven't you of the 20th century where in fact you know you've got this linear economy and things are being, as you said earlier, extracted from the earth, used very briefly and then get dumped again.

JR: Dumped and buried. And I have a horrible thought that many generations ahead people may be forced to go digging up in those landfills to try to get things out because they've got so short, you know? It could come to that. It would be absolutely horrific. I suppose they'd have hugely protected, well they'd probably send robots in, wouldn't they?

JC: Well, they would these days, absolutely.

JR: Yes. Anyway it was a very, very extraordinary thing to get a second Private Members' Bill and I have to say I was absolutely thrilled when it got through. It didn't get through until the October of 19..., not 19..., 2003. It was just one of those things that got into a new parliamentary procedure of carry-over, which hadn't existed many years before that. And so it, all this struggle with the Treasury was all ironed-out and we eventually got to the moment when the name of the Private Members' Bill is read by the, it's usually a Deputy Speaker that's doing this in the Chair, who reads out 'The Household [Waste] Recycling Act, 2003'. And then there's a pause and you just think, 'Somebody's going to shout out, 'Object!'. No, that is when they say the Bill. They call out at the end of all the procedures, they call out the name of the Bill and then if anyone says, 'Object!' then you lose your Bill. Of course I was very fearful because of what had gone before but that didn't happen. And then the Royal Assent itself didn't come until October of that year. And then I suppose, I never asked him this, though I kind of think Gordon Brown remembered that encounter because when he became Prime Minister he then offered me the job of Environment Minister, which I accepted and became the Minister for Waste.

[24]. HEALTH AND SAFETY; THE IMPACT OF MRFs

JC: One of the problems that you've got is that the waste sector generally has got a very poor health and safety record, which is one of the reasons why developing a conference in January of next year to talk about this issue because there's a number of fatalities or serious incidents that occur each year in a range of different areas. So sometimes in the MRFs themselves, sometimes in the collections, sometimes at the household waste recycling centres. But it's one of those issues where you can say there's been a general improvement in health because we've almost eliminated the house fly as an issue as far as household waste is concerned, which is great. That's led to a number of health improvements but we've still got this

problem that we're one of the worst industries I think. We, speaking as a representative, as I am, of the waste industry, one of the worst health and safety records that unfortunately this continues from year to year. But it's not entirely the fault of the operators. I mean we've had one of the issues that's cropped up which is, if you like, a consequence of homelessness and the fact that we've got more homeless people now. They're inclined to go into large waste bins to spend the night there and unless people are checking then unfortunately they can get tipped into the bin. And the strange thing is that you know they can even, you know, get a couple of pieces of cardboard and sleep in a glass bin, you know, as better than sleeping on the street. It really is extraordinary.

Well, this is one of the problems that you have also with regard to MRFs, the Materials Recovery Facilities, because if you look at the health and safety issues in these Materials Recovery Facilities then they have got better but initially there was a lot of hand sorting and there were lots of sharps injuries and so on. But as we've mechanised the sorting arrangements it's become cleaner, more efficient and you know people are just doing a few checks on quality assurance at the end of the process, so it's much better for people.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]

Further related resources:

1. Finn L (intvr); Jones E M, Tansey E M (eds) (2016) *Coggins, Chris: transcript of an audio interview (23-Jun-2014)*. History of Modern Biomedicine Interviews (Digital Collection), item e2016106. London: Queen Mary University of London.
2. Finn L (intvr); Jones E M, Tansey E M (eds) (2016) *Cooper, Jeff: transcript of an audio interview (19-Jun-2014)*. History of Modern Biomedicine Interviews (Digital Collection), item e2016107. London: Queen Mary University of London.
3. Finn L (intvr); Jones E M, Tansey E M (eds) (2016) *Dennis, Barry: transcript of an audio interview (30-May-2014)*. History of Modern Biomedicine Interviews (Digital Collection), item e2016108. London: Queen Mary University of London.
4. Finn L (intvr); Jones E M, Tansey E M (eds) (2016) *Ferguson, John: transcript of an audio interview (04-Jun-2014)*. History of Modern Biomedicine Interviews (Digital Collection), item e2016109. London: Queen Mary University of London.
5. Finn L (intvr); Jones E M, Tansey E M (eds) (2016) *Sharp, Ernie: transcript of an audio interview (30-May- and 25-Jun-2014)*. History of Modern Biomedicine Interviews (Digital Collection), item e2016124. London: Queen Mary University of London.
6. Finn L (intvr); Jones E M, Tansey E M (eds) (2016) *Wright, Mick: transcript of an audio interview (08-Jul-2014)*. History of Modern Biomedicine Interviews (Digital Collection), item e2016125. London: Queen Mary University of London.
7. Jones E M, Tansey E M (eds) (2015) *The Development of Waste Management in the UK c.1960-c.2000*. Wellcome Witnesses to Contemporary Medicine, vol. 56. London: Queen Mary University of London.
8. Ruddock J M (2016) *Going Nowhere: A Memoir*. London: Biteback Publishing.