



Caldwell's Nurseries Project

Oral history

<http://www.caldwellarchives.org.uk/>

Peter Evans interviewed by Janet Horne

Peter Evans owner of garden design and maintenance business, customer of Caldwell's from 1984 to closure

Duration:	00:09:01
Recording date:	09.02.2012
Recording Location:	Peter Evan's home
Access restrictions:	None
Recording equipment:	Zoom H4N
Recording notes:	-
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Interview summary

00.00.08	Peter Evans gives his introduction of being born in Warwickshire and his move to Bowdon near Knutsford in 1967.
00.00.30	Peter started gardening as a young man.
00.00.36	<p>Introduction to Caldwell's</p> <p>"After coming down from University in 1980, after travelling, I set up my own garden maintenance business in the Altrincham and Bowden area. I think it was in 1984, I first went to help a lady who lived in High Legh, an American lady who was a very keen gardener and knew all the best nurseries in the area. So, for a time, I did business with Mr Cornwall Legh of High Legh nurseries in the days when it was just two greenhouses and some duck boards, because it was prone to flooding in the winter.</p> <p>Then Mrs Ryan took me over to Caldwell's to introduce me to Mr Leaman, the gentleman who she'd always dealt with. I remember it as a wonderfully old-fashioned place; they were real gentlemen; a very friendly, very kind and very encouraging chap; and so for a number of years I would go to Caldwell's for shrubs.</p> <p><i>Can you describe arriving at Caldwell's and perhaps the layout of Caldwell's?</i></p> <p>I seem to remember that as you went along the Macclesfield Road, you turned in by a house, which I always assumed was their house. But, the one thing I very well remember, that made an impression on me, was a very long shrubbery that was meticulously maintained, with topiared shrubs, beautiful variegated hollies, all maintained. I then returned to Bowden and looked at the gardens and realised that this is how the whole area would once have looked. But, at Caldwell's they were still</p>

	pruning things correctly, and had maintained their pruning programme through all those wartime years, when in Bowdon and Altrincham, through lack of labour, they'd been neglected. It was a real eye-opener.”
00.05.00	Peter did not recollect individual people but described the shop like going into a potting shed
00.06.00	Description of Caldwell's nurseries as the best in the area as there were no big garden centres as there are today. He knew the nurseries as suppliers of herbaceous plants and shrubs and was sad to see the business close.



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