**Sam Purdie interview extract 2 (3.10 min)**

*In this segment Sam talks further about the housing conditions, amenities and environment, including the routines of miner’s wives. He concludes with an anecdote about the visit of Arthur Woodburn, Secretary of State for Scotland, to the village after the Second World War (around 1946).*

INSERT SECOND CLIP

**Sam Purdie Clip 2 transcript**

Glenbuck *village* is in a little, isolated hollow. You can’t see it from any of the main roads. The A70 runs to the south but you, you would never know there was a village there. So, this tiny, isolated hollow where the people live and, er, surrounded, as I say, on three sides by Lanark[shire].

**AM:** Yep.

**SP:** So, when you go in to Glenbuck, the first thing you, you pass, as you are on the way in, is an extinct pit. This lets you to understand that you are heading into a mining village. It’s a pit that’s exhausted. Then when you move in towards the middle of the village, the first thing you see on your left-hand side, is what we called ‘the Long Row’. This is thirty-three houses in a miners’ row.

**AM:** Yep.

**SP:** Every four houses has got an external…closet, in front of the, the house, and then, but every *six* houses had a separate, er, washhouse. Now, the procedure for the washhouse is, there’s a huge cast bowl and the housewife whose turn it is to do the washing, goes round about four o’ clock in the morning and light the fire so the water in this cast iron *tub* is going to be hot enough to do her washing. It doesn’t matter what the weather’s like, if it’s your turn for the washing you’ve got to do it this week or you can’t do it until next week! So, these were communal. So, you can see that this is a community…

**AM:** Yep, yep.

**SP:** …of people who, for instance in the Long Row, there was only *one* water pump! They had to go thirty-three houses, some of them, fill their pails with drinking water and carry it back to the house. [pause] So, this was the chore, you see? And, er, as of, the sanitary arrangements were absolutely primitive and I am sure that, we had, er, we had an instance where Arthur Woodburn, Secretary of State for Scotland, the first Labour Government, ’45 [1945], must have been about ’46 [1946], he started to think about the conditions of the miners’ rows and it was his vision that we could do away with miners’ rows, so he came to Glenbuck to visit. And he was visiting around the houses. Now, if you can imagine the configuration of these houses – there was a front door, then there was a *tiny* lobby where, usually, the drinking water was kept.

**AM:** Yep.

**SP:** And a couple o’ pails of coal. Then, there was the, the inside door that led into the living room. So, Arthur was going round an’, er, he was in this house, visiting, and, almost as an afterthought on his way out, he said to the, the wife, “Where’s your toilet, dear?” She points to the *pail* in the lobby! [laughs]

**AM:** [laughing] You’d go there!

**SP:** Ex, ex, ex, *exactly*! Arthur Woodburn in a hurry! [laughing]