



JC: 6.

Interviewer: Number 6.

JC: Number 6 Abbey Square and number 2 Vine Row.

Interviewer: Do you remember much about those houses?

JC: Vine Row was two up two down, and the toilet was across the yard. There was a well, where we got the water from in Vine Row, that was, yeah, fun. Then in Abbey Square we did have, yeah we had, I'm just trying to think, oh they put the sewer in while we lived in Vine Row, Abbey Square, the sewer came.

Interviewer: Ah, right.

JC: So we had a water toilet. But that was across the yard.

Interviewer: Right.

JC: In the barns.

Interviewer: Can you remember roughly when that would be? How old you were?

JC: Oh, god. What, the toilet, must have been eight, hang on I was working so must have been fifteen, sixteen when it was happening.

Interviewer: Right. Right.

JC: Yeah, so.

Interviewer: Was that for just Abbey Square or the whole of the village?

JC: No the whole of the village. They done the whole village.

Interviewer: Oh, right, that's interesting.

JC: When they put the, yeah, they done the whole, the roads were dug up and everything but nobody complained.

Interviewer: No, no. Less traffic.

JC: I mean they went down the bottom fields and across and up.

Interviewer: Right. That's interesting.

JC: Yeah. That was quite fun actually. Well it was something that happened in the village that was benefit.

Interviewer: Yeah absolutely, must have made a huge difference.

JC: Well yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah, enormous difference. And what did your grandparents do?

JC: My mums gran, I don't really remember her or my granddad working, he was sort of retired, because I think he was in, I've got the idea he must have been in the ... was it the Boer War?

Interviewer: The Boer War?

JC: Which was, because he was...

Interviewer: That was about the turn of the century wasn't it, just before?

JC: It must have been because my gran died 1960 some odd and she was eighty odd, but there was twenty years difference between their ages.

Interviewer: Ah, OK.

JC: So yeah, I think he was. So I don't ever remember him working.

Interviewer: No.

JC: My other granddad, I don't remember him working but he used to work with horses.

Interviewer: Oh right.

JC: Done a lot with horses, heavy horses.

Interviewer: Do you know who he worked for?

JC: No, because they lived at Stagsden.

Interviewer: Ah right, ok.

JC: And they lived in, actually they lived in two cottages, on the corner and it got burnt down, I can remember that.

Interviewer: Oh, goodness. I'm not surprised.

JC: It was a thatched cottage, and then they still moved back to it. They went to another thatched cottage but yeah.

Interviewer: So what was your maiden name?

JC: Welch. Yeah.

Interviewer: And what were your parents' first names?

JC: Kathleen and Herbert. Yeah.

Interviewer: I don't suppose you know your grandparents names?

JC: I can remember Mary Lovell, and Annie Welch, and Herbert Welch, because he was named, my dad was named after his dad. But I don't know what my granddad - oh William Welch, Walter, something like that, William or Walter, I don't know.

Interviewer: Yes. And did you have any brothers or sisters?

JC: I had a sister.

Interviewer: Older?

JC: She was older than me and she worked in Sainsbury's. She went to the same schools as me and she for ... she went to work for Sainsbury's.

Interviewer: Ah right. What was her name?

JC: Jean. When they done their training they had to go up to London, up to Blackfriars.

Interviewer: Oh. That must have been quite a thing.

JC: Well yeah because you was young, I mean you left school at fifteen.

Interviewer: Yes.

JC: And you went up to London?

Interviewer: I don't suppose she'd been before necessarily.

JC: No. Not that I know of. Yeah, but no, that was that.

Interviewer: So where you born at home?

JC: I presume so.

Interviewer: Yep.

JC: I presume so.

Interviewer: And can you remember the games, the sort of games you used to play when you were little?

JC: Hopscotch, skipping, marbles in the gutter, rounders, hide and seek, yeah, all the sorts of things that they don't do now! I don't think, anyway.

Interviewer: And did you go to school in Turvey?

JC: Yup, Turvey Lower School, no Turvey School it was then, because it was all, both classes were in one room.

Interviewer: And what can you remember about it?

JC: There was a curtain across the middle, we had Mrs Truphet and Miss Harding, teachers.

Mrs Truphet lived in the village, she actually lived in Vine Row.

Interviewer: Oh right.

JC: Which was, we sort of thought, well, we should behave ourselves. But she was, she never, she didn't interfere with you, not when you was out of school really.

Interviewer: No.

JC: But no, so yeah.

Interviewer: So how old were you when you went there?

JC: Five.

Interviewer: Until?

JC: And we had milk out of bottles, with the straws, which I thought we all, and if it was cold and frozen it would be coming, the tops would be poking off, then they used to stand it by the coke stove to warm, for it to defrost, but yeah. Then, we used to go to my nan's, gran's, and have my lunch, sandwich.

Interviewer: Where did they live?

JC: She lived in the houses at the bottom of the alley, so I only had to cross the road, then we used to have to walk back to Crown Farm.

Interviewer: Yes, that was quite a walk wasn't it? Did you walk back on your own, or with your sister?

JC: No, with Jean, yeah, there was a couple more that lived up there on the way, you sort of all, you collected all, so yeah no, there was always sort of somebody else.

Interviewer: And how long did you stay at Turvey School?

JC: Till we was eleven, then we went to Harrold.

Interviewer: And how did you get there?

JC: Bailey's coaches. They took us and brought us back, and that was, I mean sometimes, that

seemed a big upheaval to go on a bus to school.

Interviewer: Yes.

JC: But it was fine when we got there.

Interviewer: And who were your teachers there?

JC: Mrs Wyatt, Mrs MacWilliam, Mr Faulkner who was headmaster, Mr Arthur we had, can't remember any more.

Interviewer: And did you like Harrold?

JC: Yeah, yes because you done different things, you done, like Turvey you just sort of done the base, whereas you'd got science, art classes, art classes, science, cooking and needlework, which I wasn't any good at. Needlework I was not good at, not good.

Interviewer: Do you do any now?

JC: Not needlework, do my knitting now.

Interviewer: No. Yes.

JC: But not needlework. I had a sewing machine, bought a new one and then only used it twice. No, it's not good, sewing's not good for me.

Interviewer: It does depend doesn't it, people have got their things that they're good at.

JC: I mean I even tried lace and that was worse.

Interviewer: It's very fiddly isn't it, lace, and slow.

JC: And slow, and you've got to keep moving on, so much concentration, well with knitting when I've got the pattern in my head that's it, away we go.

Interviewer: Obviously your best thing, your best thing. So when you were, when you were at Turvey School, do you remember what games you did there? You played there, did you play in

the playground?

JC: Yeah hopscotch, ring a ring a roses, oranges and lemons was it, Mr Wolf.

Interviewer: Oh yes.

JC: Yeah, and the skipping and the, yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah. And did you go round to friend's houses to play at all?

JC: Well we, because up Carlton Road there was a gang of us and we sort of always got together, we was either playing, well we played rounders in the middle of the road and skipping across the road, but, Carlton Road, we had the posts sort of that was that gate and that gate, and you just got on with it, until you heard something coming then we'd stop for a minute.

Yeah, yeah so no.

Interviewer: Can you remember much about the food you ate as a child? What kind of things you had. I mean you said you went to your grandparents for your dinner when you were at school, can you remember what sort of things they would give you?

JC: Probably bread and dripping, and rabbit stew we would have.

Interviewer: Did somebody in the family catch the rabbit?

JC: Well probably my dad, rabbit stew, and we had sort of Bedfordshire Clangers, it was all stodgy food but I mean it was, it filled you. Bananas were a treat, and oranges. When you opened your stocking on Christmas morning if you'd got an orange that was good.

Interviewer: What did you have for lunch on Christmas Day?

JC: Chicken.

Interviewer: Yes.

JC: And it was a luxury them days, not like it is now.

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah. Can you remember much else about traditional Christmases in your house?

JC: Well yeah we would all, they would all, they were a family thing, like I think my mum, I think Aunt Ethel lived in the village and we sort of went to each other's houses at some stage, and Gran would come, then we would have dinner, crackers, and we'd be made the paper chains, Christmas tree, probably didn't have lights on it.

Interviewer: No. Did you go to church on Christmas Day?

JC: I can't remember going to church on Christmas Day, no.

Interviewer: No. Did you share a room with your sister and open your stockings together?

JC: Yeah, probably, yeah. Yeah, I think we did, yeah because we had to share a room because there was only two.

Interviewer: Yes. How about other members of your family, aunts and uncles and so on, did you see much of them?

JC: Saw Aunt Ethel, because she lived in the village, she was my second mum.

Interviewer: Lovely. And so what was her surname?

JC: Umney.

Interviewer: Umney, yes.

JC: And my mum had two more sisters. One lived with my Gran.

Interviewer: What was her name?

JC: Em Lovell. Then there was Aunt Nell, she moved into Covington's Yard and she was Mrs Buchanan, they moved back from London, they was living in London.

Interviewer: Oh right.

JC: And they moved back, and Uncle Len lived at Box End, he was a farmer, farm worker, worked on the farm, and they came back to Barton Homes and lived up there.

Interviewer: Oh right. So did you get to see them much as you were growing up?

JC: Not really.

Interviewer: No.

JC: I mean the only one we saw was Aunt Ethel, saw Aunt Em, but Aunt Ethel we used to see her, not the others because they weren't here. Where've we got?

Interviewer: Did you go to Sunday School?

JC: I vaguely remember, yeah they did do, but there was, we used to have a book which you put pictures of, they gave you like, what you were supposed to have learnt.

Interviewer: Right.

JC: But it wasn't, it was in, they had it, I think they had it in the hall, I don't think we went to church, and it was sort of only about half an hour or an hour, not long.

Interviewer: Right. Do you remember who?

JC: No I don't remember anything, just vaguely back remember that we had this book with these stickers in.

Interviewer: Yes, yes. Probably quite liked the stickers and that's why it stayed. Can you remember much about the teachers at school, I mean you've told me their names, can you remember much about their characters, or ... ?

JC: Not really, not really. No.

Interviewer: No. I mean we've talked about playground games and so on. How about the shops in the village, what do you remember about them?

JC: There was Mr Norburn, there was Mr Osborne the baker, Miss Clifton done the haberdashery, which was opposite side to Norburns, Mr Wooding had the post office, where Central Stores is, and I can't remember...

Interviewer: Oh, that was where Central Stores is, when Mr Wooding was doing it, right.

JC: Down the Corner Stores the only people I can ever remember people saying about is Pecky Payne, but I don't remember him.

Interviewer: No.

JC: Then there was Skevington's the butchers, Bailey's the butchers.

Interviewer: And where was that one?

JC: Down Bridge Street, where the Mace shop, there was, Mrs Bailey had the shop, and the post, butchers was attached to the house sort of thing, where the post office used to be.

Interviewer: Right, OK, where the post office moved later, ah right that's where it was, so past where the old gas works used to be.

JC: Where the gas works, yep.

Interviewer: Yep. And do you remember going in and spending, did you buy sweeties in any of the shops or anything, do you remember doing that?

JC: Used to go in Osbornes, the Bakehouse more because she used to have the old fashioned jars, with the big ... and you could sort of a pennyworth of sweets, which in them days was a lot of money.

Interviewer: Yes, and a real treat.

JC: And a real treat, because you didn't get it, you didn't get pocket money threw at you, just had to think, probably had to earn it by washing up or doing something.

Interviewer: Yes. Did you do a lot of helping round the house?

JC: Oh yes. Yeah, because you had to.

Interviewer: Yes, yes.

JC: Sort of tidy up and wash up.

Interviewer: Did you help your dad at all, did you do any things outside?

JC: Oh we used to go in the garden, yeah we used to go in the garden, end up muddy and dirty but, it was fine!

Interviewer: And how about the pubs?

JC: There was the Railway Swan, the Kings Arms, the Three Cranes and the Three Fyshes, then the Laws Hotel. But yeah, my dad used to go down the Fyshes I remember that, playing skittles and darts.

Interviewer: That was his favourite one.

JC: That was, that was the ... to me that was the village pub I think, really.

Interviewer: Right. Can you remember who was running it then?

JC: Tom Behan, the Behans were there.

Interviewer: Yes. So were there a lot of people there, and it was all very sociable and...

JC: Yes I think so.

Interviewer: Yeah. Did your dad go often or was it just sort of a weekend treat.

JC: Every weekend I think, it was a weekend treat.

Interviewer: Yes, yeah. So when you left school, how old were you then?

JC: Fifteen.

Interviewer: And what did you do?

JC: I went to work in a grocery shop in Bedford, down St Cuthberts.

Interviewer: Oh right, what was that called, can you remember?

JC: No.

Interviewer: No. Don't worry, it doesn't matter.

JC: It wasn't there that long. Then I went to Woolworth's.

Interviewer: Did you like it at Woolworth's?

JC: Oh yeah, I worked on the sweet counter, where they had the machines where the nuts were hot. Ooh. And all the weigh up sweets, yeah, that was fun.

Interviewer: Did you make a lot of friends there?

JC: Not really, well I actually did make one friend and she died about three years ago. But she was the supervisor there when I worked there.

Interviewer: Ahh. Oh right, what was her name?

JC: Esme.

Interviewer: Esme.

JC: She was Miss Brown then, but then she married, she was Mrs Lack. But I met her again through playing bowls.

Interviewer: Wow, what a coincidence.

JC: Yes, so she was playing bowls. Then Derek's cousin's wife used to work there as well, so we used to meet, because he used to come and meet me out of work and go pictures and so,

That was all. Then I had a bad ear. Then I went to work for the Post Office, delivering letters, which was ...

Interviewer: Did you enjoy that?

JC: I did! I did from here right down to Stagsden turn, to the bungalow, all the farms on your way, in the morning. Then in the afternoons I had to go up as far as the Police house, and then to go to Newton Blossomville empty the box there, then come back and go to Brayfield and empty the box up there.

Interviewer: Goodness, that's a ... that was as long round. I should think it was nicer when the weather was better.

JC: It was alright when the weather was nice, when it was wet it was horrible. But then we had to work Christmas morning.

Interviewer: Right.

JC: You only had ... and Good Friday morning, you only sort had the Mondays off, yeah Christmas morning you worked.

Interviewer: Right. Did you do a full round on Christmas morning? Goodness.

JC: Yep. Well if you'd got post for them yeah you had to go.

Interviewer: Yes, you did it, yeah.

JC: You had to go, where you'd got to go.

Interviewer: Right. And how did you meet Derek, your husband?

JC: Well we used to congregate on the bridge in gangs like you did, and that was it.

Interviewer: What did you do while you were courting? Where did you go?

JC: We used to go pictures, traction engine rallies, holidays, went on holiday, went to

Yarmouth. We went to Stratford Upon Avon, because he had an aunt lived there, near ... they worked in the theatre, but we didn't go to see Mr Shakespeare's plays. But went to see Ann Hathaway's cottage and all that, because that was all in it, and Shakespeare's house.

Interviewer: Yes. What year did you get married?

JC: 1960.

Interviewer: And was that in Turvey church?

JC: In Turvey church, the reception in the hall, yep.

Interviewer: Lots of people, and...

JC: Well yeah because there was all the family, I think there was about a hundred.

Interviewer: Yes. Goodness.

JC: Because Derek's dad, Derek's side had got quite a large family, and my dad had. So all the aunts and, I don't think it was so many cousins I think it was just sort of, they restricted it to aunts and uncles in the end.

Interviewer: Right. There was enough of them without any more.

JC: Yeah. Then my dad had got eleven brothers and sisters, and Derek's dad had got about six and then his mum had got three, my mum had got about six.

Interviewer: Yes. Goodness. Yes.

JC: And you get all the partners, it adds up.

Interviewer: Yes it certainly does. And where did you live when you first got married?

JC: Abbey Square, number six. With my mum.

Interviewer: With your mum and dad?

JC: Then we moved here, in 1961.

Interviewer: So here being the Old School House?

JC: Yup.

Interviewer: Next to the village hall, yeah.

JC: And that's where I've been ever since!

Interviewer: Yes.

JC: And now it is shut, I'm thinking what am I going to be doing? VILLAGE HALL WAS SHUT DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, INTERVIEW TOOK PLACE 5 DAYS BEFORE LOCK-DOWN ON MARCH 23RD 2020.

Interviewer: Yes, I know, it's, umm...

JC: You think, well hang on, what do you do?

Interviewer: Used to your routines of doing things in the hall?

JC: Yeah, like getting up and going and doing the hall, and, because it was funny on Monday, because I said to Keith, because I'd had a birthday party in there, well I know they'd learnt the kids on Saturday, I mean kids, they always washed their hands, but they'd being doing it more, and I think they'd washed the floor as well, so I said to Keith on Monday, I'll just go and mop that floor so that it looks as though it's not been splattered. So I done that, and then I said, I've run out of ... and he said would you please put some gloves on, well he found me some latex ones which are not, well extra large, so I sat here when I got back, and I've ordered two boxes of latex gloves.

Interviewer: That seems very sensible.

JC: Then he said then you'll be fine mum, you'll still want them.

Interviewer: Yes, yes, although.

JC: Then he said, and I said I've washed the kitchen floor I said so it's all done. But we've laughed because you know this election?

Interviewer: Yes.

JC: They think it's still taking place, if you believe it or not.

Interviewer: Oh really, I thought they were going to be cancelled.

JC: This parish, you know the one for the Parish Council, I rang her yesterday so I said to her, I'll tell you here and now the hall's closed, I said we have no sanitiser, if you want to come, you come, but you bring your own sanitisers I said because we've not got a ... I said that's why the hall was closed really, well not only that, but I mean it's, if you haven't got any sanitisers to do anything with, the proper sanitiser, I mean you've got the household stuff, but.

Interviewer: No. Well so many things have been closed I should think, I should think all, all the rest of it will happen.

JC: She rang me yesterday and said don't you think, me being me, I was on my high horse with her, no, weren't her fault, she said don't you think it's a bit stupid, she said why, anybody over 70's not supposed to come out, I said it's not going to be a true vote. Oh well she said, I'll let you know, I said well you'd better. Even Keith said well in that case they should send everybody a postal vote.

Interviewer: Yes.

JC: But they won't do that, will they?

Interviewer: I should think it would be quite difficult to arrange now, oh well no doubt something will happen about it. So the village hall has always been a big part of the life of the village, why kind of things have happened in there that you can think of?

JC: What have we had? Elections, not lately, parties, family parties, dances, whist drives, bingo, which have all been, WI used to come, Evergreen Club, Brownies, Guides.

Interviewer: Tell me about the Evergreen Club.

JC: That was fun, we used to help with that. We used to give them a ... they used to meet once, once a week on a Monday, and we used to do a Christmas party. But they was all so set in their ways that they wouldn't, if somebody didn't come and you say would you sit there, no, well you haven't paid for that chair would you just move, but they were so adamant that they just sat with this little group. And then when we done them, oh we done them a Christmas tea and we had jelly and ice cream, because they loved that because that took them back to, well really my childhood that we had jelly and ice cream, which was a treat, but one of the girls that helped she said it don't seem right because we always had to have bread and butter with it.

Interviewer: I've never heard of that.

JC: And right until my dad died if we'd got jelly he said can I have a slice of bread and butter because as he said it filled you up.

Interviewer: Yes. Yes. That makes sense.

JC: And she said I don't feel right, I said, we laughed, do you want a slice of bread, no I don't she said! And then we'd do 'em, they'd have a Christmas dinner, we have done that in there, cooked it all, served it.

Interviewer: So who was the Evergreens Club aimed at, who was it for?

JC: Anybody that was lonely or over 60, we started, and we had Jubilee, and for the Jubilee they had a special treat, that was the whole village though, was invited, the whole of the old age pensioners were asked to that.

Interviewer: That must have been quite an undertaking.

JC: It was, but they had ham salad, they enjoyed it, I can't remember what they had for pudding but I know they enjoyed it, I know they had this ham salad. It was fun.

Interviewer: So you could say really that the village hall has been kind of the hub of village life, for, for events and clubs and things going on.

JC: Yeah, yeah, we have yoga, have yoga days. I mean I laugh we're now up to date, you've got the flowers, apple pressing.

Interviewer: Yes, yes.

JC: The plant stall which is now cancelled.

Interviewer: Yes, yes sadly.

JC: It is, isn't it? When I was doing it I felt real, was thinking this just don't seem right.

Interviewer: No, it, none of it feels real at the moment, does it.

JC: No. Right.

Interviewer: No. We shall just see what happens.

JC: We shall get through it.

Interviewer: Can you remember what other trades and industries there were in the village?

JC: Blacksmiths.

Interviewer: Mmhmm, where was that?

JC: Up Carlton Road, that's the only one that I remember, Bert Boucher.

Interviewer: Right, right, so whereabouts up Carlton Road would it have been, do you remember?

JC: Do you know where Bullard's transport was?

Interviewer: Yes.

JC: Well next door to that.

Interviewer: Right.

JC: Because there was Bailey's, there was the Bailey's, Baileys buses and lorries, there was the blacksmiths up there, there was Len Savage, the Savage building company weren't there, there was Warrens, there was Osborne's haulage which was cattle, which Derek's dad worked for.

Interviewer: Right.

JC: Farming.

Interviewer: Mm, yes, a lot of farming.

JC: Oh and the mill, down the mill, they had, they made, in the end it was ... I can remember the Cristo Crisps, because we used to get samples of them and then their Oxo crisps were beautiful, that was the first flavour weren't it.

Interviewer: Yes.

JC: They were nice. They were nice.

Interviewer: And what did Derek do, what was Derek doing when you met him, when you first started to work?

JC: He went to work with Len Savage, then he went, then he went in the RAF for four years.

Interviewer: Do you know when that would have been, roughly?

JC: Hang on, took me a long time to think when he was born, 1933, so he would be eighteen when he went in there for four years, until last year, he was, well I was still in contact with a couple that he met when he was in the RAF.

Interviewer: Oh, brilliant.

JC: But his mate, he died last year.

So then he went to work for Ellis and Everard, then he came back and went to work for Len again, and he was working for Len when we got married, then about two years after that he went to Quenbys.

Interviewer: Right.

JC: And that's where he was, because he liked his lorry driving.

Interviewer: Yes, yeah.

JC: Which he learnt in the RAF, in Germany.

Interviewer: Yes. That was a useful skill for him to have learnt.

JC: Well yeah and then we, because we'd, they'd offered him an office job, up there, we came in one night, I said what, he said I can't do this, shut in an office it's not right, so he told them and he went back on his lorry, he I can't, I'm not an office person.

Interviewer: That was what suited him, being out and about, and of course...

JC: And we always laughed, because his cab was like being in your house, everything was in its right place, and when he went on holiday, once he came back and somebody had had it, and they'd left, it were like a tip, so he went back in and he said I'm not getting in that until it's cleaned. Because as he said, when you're in there twenty four, well twelve hours a day, that is

what you do. He had a chrome cleaning kit, he had a little stove, and a little pack of emergency pack store in case they got stuck overnight out.

Interviewer: Did that happen ever?

JC: Yeah, used to, in the summer when was busy if they went to a farm and they couldn't get loaded, and their hours, especially when they brought the tachograph in and they had their hours.

Interviewer: Yes, yes. Yeah you would want to be ready for emergencies wouldn't you, yeah. And then you had your two children, as well.

JC: I had my kids, my son was born in 1966, World Cup year.

Interviewer: And his name is?

JC: Keith and then Julie was born in ... Keith was born in 66, she was born in 67, in September. One in January and one in September.

Interviewer: Yes, yes, and they're close.

JC: Oh yes, very close. And they are still close now.

Interviewer: Nice isn't it.

JC: Yeah, when she was getting married he come with her to get her wedding dress.

Interviewer: That's lovely.

JC: That was so funny. He said I'm coming - what! Then I can always remember she came out, we went into the shop and they brought out, which was, you can imagine, not Julie, all these beads and pearls, and he said, don't think that's right do you. No, she said. Very plain and very simple. So yeah.

Interviewer: I bet she looked beautiful though.

JC: She did. She did.

Interviewer: So we talked about transport, so there's been Baileys Buses, and you went on your bike and so on, and that was generally it until you got a car?

JC: Yeah, well Derek had got a car when I met him.

Interviewer: Ah, so you could get out and about.

JC: We could go out, we could go out and about in that.

Interviewer: And the streets and the roads of Turvey, what changes can you think you've noticed, during your life.

JC: More traffic. But then, people say there's more traffic but yeah there is, but it's, what can I say, they're saying no there's more traffic on the High Street. I don't think there's any more traffic it's just at peak times and when the motorway's shut yep. Alright you do get the heavy vehicles, which I'm sorry they've got to go somewhere if you want your food delivered. I have this argument with lots of people, because I think well, do you want your food, where are they going? They can't go on the railway, because there's not one.

Interviewer: No, no. Do you remember going on the railway?

JC: Yeah. We used to go into Bedford, and to Northampton. I remember going to Northampton from Turvey on the train.

Interviewer: Yes.

JC: Which was a treat.

Interviewer: Yes, yes I'm sure.

JC: But when we went to Bedford it was when the buses went on strike, so we used to have to walk up to the station and catch the train.

Interviewer: Right, so if you bought much you had to carry it back down when you got...

JC: Yeah, I mean that was when we were starting work, and then when we, you had to walk to the station and walk back from the station when you'd done your days' work.

Interviewer: Ah right, I didn't know about the buses strike. What was that about?

JC: I can't remember when it was, but it wasn't for long, I know we went to go catch the train.

Interviewer: Right. Can you remember what they were on strike for?

JC: No.

Interviewer: No. Probably money,

JC: Probably.

Interviewer: Or something, something like that. And is there anything else that comes to you about the streets and the roads, how they've changed, you've said the traffic.

JC: Not really. More houses, up and down.

Interviewer: More houses, yes.

JC: That's all. Which is fair enough.

Interviewer: Well yeah.

JC: That's life.

Interviewer: That is life, people have got to live somewhere. And the river and the bridge?

JC: That's the same.

Interviewer: You said you used to congregate there.

JC: Yeah, we used to go on the bridge.

Interviewer: Yes. Did you used to go down to Sam's island?

JC: Yeah. Sam's island, yeah, couldn't get back up the wall sometimes. But if you looked in

the river below there were stepping stones you could go across.

Interviewer: Right.

JC: And come out at the other end by the style, well there used to be a style and bridge, I don't know where it's still there or not now, I don't know.

Interviewer: And so you would have walked down past the mill, on the bit of river the other side of the mill, down to the bridge?

JC: No, go down the High Street, on the bridge.

Interviewer: Sorry, I meant if you went on the stepping stones.

JC: Oh yes, yeah you'd go down the bridge and over the, yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah. And farms and farming, obviously you'll know a lot about that, from your family, you've got memories of the farms roundabout, and what's changed on them?

JC: I can remember this, Grove Farm, because that was, they done milking, I used to go and help sometimes and carry the ... people would, they'd put them (the dairy cattle) in the paddock where the Pyghtle is now, then they'd go across the road and up Grove Road, as it is now, into where the playing field is, and that road, that's what we used to call 'muddy way', because we used to walk up, I mean when we were little kids we'd have our wellies, you lose your wellies if you weren't careful, because you'd get stuck in the mud. Because there used to be two gates, one field went that way, and one went straight up, and the cows, you opened which gate they'd got to go in. Yeah, then they had sheep as well which down the bottom of Carlton Road was the sheep pens. You know where you go into the farm on the, down by Coppey Moor, well opposite there, there used to be sheep pens, where they used to do sheep shearing, and all the pens with the lambs and that in. Yeah, we used to go down there, watch

them sheep shear.

Interviewer: Right. Too little to help though.

JC: Well yeah, was in them days. But we could wander about, I mean, we wandered about, we had freedom, you didn't think about anything else you could go miles across the fields and nobody would worry about you.

Interviewer: Yes. Did you used to go with all your friends?

JC: Yes, you used to go off with your friends and that was it.

Interviewer: Just come back for your dinner?

JC: Yeah. Yeah, it was, I do think that is something the kids don't have these days.

Interviewer: Yes.

JC: Which is a shame.

Interviewer: Yes. Yes.

JC: Yeah because we could go out and come back and didn't...

Interviewer: Yes, didn't worry, just went off.

JC: Went off.

Interviewer: How about other buildings in the village, what changes can you remember about them, maybe the chapels, or anything like that?

JC: Both the chapels, yeah I can remember the chapels, the one up Carlton Road, that was Mr Day, used to hear him talking if we was in Jean's garden because he had a loud voice, Derek's mum played the organ down here for sixty years at the Congregational.

Interviewer: The one along the High Street.

JC: Yes. My gran used to go there, and I used to love going with her.

Interviewer: Oh right.

JC: When I was a little girl, used to love going to chapel with gran.

Interviewer: Can you remember what it was you particularly liked about it.

JC: Well they used to sing what I call clap happy songs.

Interviewer: Lovely, yes.

JC: Not in the chapel service itself, but they had a meeting room upstairs, and they used to have these, what I call clap happy, and they're still, and they laughed, on Songs of Praise on Sunday, this Sunday wasn't it I listened to it, and they sang one, whatever was it, and I thought oh that's my gran.

Interviewer: Brought back memories.

JC: Mm, it did, and I can't think what it was. But you know, I think yeah, gran, I remember her singing it. What a friend we have in Jesus, I can hear her singing it now, she used to sit and sing that, yep.

Interviewer: How about All Saints? Remember much about that?

JC: I went to church, I went to choir.

Interviewer: Ah right, you were in the choir.

JC: I was in the choir.

Interviewer: And who was, who was running the choir then, do you remember?

JC: No.

Interviewer: No. Which Rector would it have been?

JC: Well it was, there was Mr Perry, Canon Perry, there was Mr Browning, Mr Butler married

us.

Interviewer: Oh right, OK.

JC: Yeah, so I can't remember which who was, which way round they went.

Interviewer: No, no. And how about village characters, do you remember any particular characters in the village, from the past?

JC: Only Mr Dent, on his three wheeled bike, and that's about all really. Yeah.

Interviewer: Well obviously you're not going to have any memories of World War 2, or anything what the village was like, but you said Derek was in the RAF. National events that affected the village, now you've mentioned the Jubilee from the point of view of having the big party, can you remember anything else like that?

JC: They had a steam rally, a steam engine down by the church to raise money for the roof, I can remember that, and they had, I think they had a car rally up at Picts Hill house once.

Interviewer: Oh really?

JC: Yeah. (Keith comes in).

Interviewer: And news stories?

JC: Only the train.

Interviewer: What ...

JC: Crashed up Newton Lane, didn't it. And about Nell's Well closing, when they closed that.

Interviewer: Ah, right.

JC: Because we had the BBC television come out.

Interviewer: Oh OK, so we were on the news then?

JC: Yeah, we was on the news, on the Tonight programme, with Cliff Michelmore. I can't think who the bloke was.

Interviewer: Oh, OK. Why was the well closed?

JC: Because they said the water was unhealthy to drink.

Interviewer: Right, OK.

JC: Because it was the spring and they tested it and said...

Interviewer: Right. Do you remember when that was?

JC: Well the paper put it in September 1960.

Interviewer: Oh right, OK. During that year.

JC: Yeah, I think this is on the what's it.

Interviewer: On the website, yeah. That would have been a big story for the village, at the time.

JC: Yeah it was. He came on a Sunday, I can always remember who it was, and I can't remember what his name was. Shutting it down.

Interviewer: Don't worry.

JC: Mabel Wadsworth - do you remember Mabel? Wadsworth?

Interviewer: Mabel, yes.

JC: She was one that said it should be, it shouldn't never have been, she'd lived there and drunk it for fifty seven years.

Interviewer: Yes.

JC: So yes,

Keith Cockings offers refreshment.

Interviewer: Politics, would that have had much effect in the village? Obviously you've talked, you've said that the elections are in the village, held in the village hall.

JC: I can't remember much, no.

Interviewer: No, no.

JC: Can't remember much about that at all.

Interviewer: No. And we've talked about meeting places from the point of view of talking about the village hall, and the churches but how about other meeting places in the village?

JC: There was the Reading Room which was for men only once upon a time, well it still was, always was I think, and they used to use that for whist drives, but other than that, don't think there was anywhere else. Because the Rec, until the Rec was built then there was the playing field.

Interviewer: Yes.

JC: But other than that, no.

Interviewer: No, were there, if there were big events, if there were fetes, anything like that, where would they have been held?

JC: They had them up Turvey House, the British Legion used to do a vegetable and flower show, with a fancy dress and I remember there being some fetes at the Abbey with Mrs Rupert Allen raising money for the village hall.

Interviewer: Ah right, that was what they were for.

JC: Yeah.

Interviewer: Yes. Did any of your family enter the vegetables?

JC: I think so, I think my dad might have done and we used to do wild flower arrangements when we were kids, yeah.

Interviewer: Yes.

JC: But that's about...

Interviewer: And sport? What sport would there have been?

JC: Cricket and football.

Interviewer: Right. Where were they?

JC: Up Turvey Park, opposite the cemetery.

Interviewer: Both the cricket and the football?

JC: Yup, they was both up there.

Interviewer: Yeah.

JC: And then when they had the Rec the football went up there, which was nice, because there wasn't a football club at that time.

Interviewer: No. So do you remember who ran it, when it moved, when it started?

JC: No.

Interviewer: No, it wasn't something you were interested in, no. Did you do any sports yourself?

JC: No. Not really, wasn't the sporty kind.

Interviewer: Allotments and gardening, what can you, do you remember much about the allotments, whether your family had one or not?

JC: Yeah, my dad had an allotment.

Interviewer: Where was his?

JC: Up Newton Lane.

Interviewer: Up Newton Lane.

JC: And Derek's dad had one up Newton Lane.

Interviewer: Right. Can you remember what they grew?

JC: Potatoes, cabbage, brussels, beans, onions.

Interviewer: Did you used to help?

JC: Not really.

Interviewer: No.

JC: Not really, not really. I might have done when we was doing it out here.

Interviewer: Right, in your own garden.

JC: Because we had our own vegetable patch.

Interviewer: Yes, yes, yes, that's a bit different isn't it, yeah. And other social activities in the village, you said you were in the choir, so did the choir have outings or anything?

JC: Not that I know of.

Interviewer: No. Were there other clubs or social things, were there dances?

JC: They used to have dances in the hall, yeah.

Interviewer: Ah, did you go to those?

JC: Not until we started running them, after the fete.

Interviewer: Oh after the fete, right.

JC: And when they had the fetes up the Rec, we used to do a dance afterwards, which we was mad to do, really.

Interviewer: Must have been quite tiring.

JC: Well yeah, but by the end of the night you weren't caring because you'd got to the stage where the wine was working! Because you used to do, we used to, then we used to do a small buffet.

Interviewer: Goodness. Yes, that would have been hard work.

JC: It was, but we did it.

Interviewer: Was that the village hall committee, or...

JC: No, they had a fete committee.

Interviewer: Right.

JC: Yeah, separate fete committee.

Interviewer: Can you remember what kind of stalls there were up at the fete?

JC: Bottle stall, tombola stall, any, all sorts, little rides, Mr Jeffrey used to bring his, the donkey, used to have a little cart, donkey rides. Fancy dress, tug o' war, throwing the welly, yes, quite a lot going on up there.

Interviewer: And did you used to meet up with friends in the pubs and things, with you and Derek.

JC: No.

Interviewer: No, preferred just a...

JC: We'd go and meet friends, but we'd go to other houses, each other's houses rather than go to pubs.

Interviewer: Yeah, right. Fair enough. Can you remember any superstitions, or ghost stories.

JC: No. No.

Interviewer: No. And particular village words and so on?

JC: No, don't think so.

Interviewer: No, sort of just generally the Bedfordshire accent?

JC: That's right, yeah, ent, cent, shunt and went. That's what we used to get told off for at school, ent, cent, shunt and went.

Interviewer: Any traditional occupations, any lace making?

JC: Yeah, they used to do lace making here, I tried it but not like, no way.

Interviewer: Do you remember any from when you were little, any of the older women in the village making lace.

JC: No. It weren't until it started up again that I really remember seeing it.

Interviewer: Yes.

JC: Mind you I have got some old lace.

Interviewer: Have you, what local old lace?

JC: Yeah, which Derek's gran made.

Interviewer: Oh how lovely.

JC: Which is Julie's.

Interviewer: That's really nice to have. Straw plaiting?

JC: No.

Interviewer: And farming we've talked about. And flora and fauna, you've talked about rabbit pie, so obviously you remember there being plenty of rabbits and so presumably chickens, would have been attracting foxes and so on.

JC: Well I don't know in them, well no because they used to do hunting didn't they, which

there weren't the foxes about, to go and chew the chickens. We didn't see the foxes.

Interviewer: No.

JC: Not in them days, like, you didn't, they just weren't there. To see a fox was an unusual thing. We used to have to get the old fashioned roses, on the roadside, and there used to be some big ones up Carlton Road, where the school is now, and they used to have these big red roses, but they had the biggest rose hips you ever did see.

Interviewer: Lovely.

JC: And they did look gorgeous, but you don't see them now. You see the little ones, but you don't see big old fashioned one. Yeah. And bluebells and primroses, used to go picking primroses, on Good Friday, for them to make a cross piece for the church, with primroses.

Interviewer: Ah, on that's interesting. Where did you go, just across the fields?

JC: Yeah, but it was up Carlton, used to have to go up Carlton Road, up a wood up near Carlton and it used to be full of primroses.

Interviewer: Oh right, ah.

JC: Then they'd make them, and I can always say I can see a cross made out of primroses, but it did look nice, yeah. But other than that.

Interviewer: And bluebells you said.

JC: Yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah, so they are the things that you think of that you don't think you see now? Things that have disappeared.

JC: Not really.

Interviewer: No. No. Accidents, you've mentioned the railway one, do you remember

anything else in particular?

JC: No, not really. Didn't seem to happen.

Interviewer: No, perhaps because there was less traffic and so on.

JC: Well think it was, well they weren't going so fast, that was the point wasn't it, because it couldn't. Didn't go ninety mile an hour.

Interviewer: And when you first moved to Turvey, do you remember thinking much about it, or you were just too little.

JC: No, too little to understand.

Interviewer: Do you think it's a nice place to live?

JC: Yeah, yeah, it's alright. It's fine, it's fine. Just, people don't ... got to be diplomatic here, they don't, some people don't want to join in.

Interviewer: Right.

JC: Which, years ago, like, well as you know, when your mum came to Turvey she joined in.

Interviewer: Everything! Yes.

JC: Yep. But they don't want to now.

Interviewer: No, no. You think that's changed and moved on in that kind of way. Yeah.

JC: They're all too busy. Doing everything.

Interviewer: OK.

End of interview.