



Oral History interview with Gill Gough and Malcolm Paynter, by Sue Zirps, 2013.

SUE: Malcolm shall we start with you?
Can you tell me when you were born?

MALCOLM: 1943

SUE: Where were you born?

MALCOLM: Totton in Hampshire

SUE: And when did you move to the village?

MALCOLM: 1975.

SUE: So you went to school in Totton?

MALCOLM: No I went to School at Bartley.

SUE: Oh Ok

MALCOLM: I went to primary school at Copythorn and secondary school at Bartley. Left school 1958, worked for Sir Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre

SUE: Oh ok 1958 so you were 15?

MALCOLM: Yes. Worked for Sir Oliver at Cottswood House Estate, Conservative MP for the New Forest. The world's best Guernsey Herd they had and worked there for 5 years.

SUE: So did you do like an apprenticeship or training?

MALCOLM: No you just went straight into it, you learned as you went along.

SUE: And you were working with the Guernsey Herd?

SUE: Yes, they used to sell bulls all over the world.

SUE: Ahh!

MALCOLM: And after that I went to work for a commercial farm in Sherfield English.

SUE: And what sort of farm was that?

MALCOLM: That was cows, pigs, cereals.

SUE: Sheep as well?

MALCOLM: No, sheep. There were sheep on the estate I first worked at - and then I worked there for 2 years where I met my wife Pat.

(2.08/54.59)

SUE: What was Pat doing there then?

MALCOLM: Pat used to work at the Mushroom Farm at Sherfield English.

SUE: So when did you get married then.

MALCOLM: 1967

SUE: Oh ok and you carried on living down there for a while.

MALCOLM: Yes, then left the job in Sherfield English and came back to Bramshall where I lived and worked for a garage owner; worked on a small holding doing a bit of garage work collecting different cars and that sort of thing.

SUE: Ah, so by this time, you hadn't done much with sheep then? **(3.00/54.59)**

MALCOLM: No, my father worked with sheep. He worked with a flock of pedigree Wiltshire Horn on the estate as well.

SUE: Ah, so it was a kind of given that you were going to work on the land with the animals then; it was what you wanted to do?

MALCOLM: Yes – from 13 I knew I had a job there. Was with the garage owner in Bramshall until 1970 thereabouts then I left there and went to work for English China Clay on one of their farms at a place near Salisbury.

SUE: Oh so that was a bit of a move then wasn't it?

MALCOLM: Yes – then after that I left there as they sold the farm. They had only bought it for the mineral rights. Once they got the mineral rights they sold the farm and then I moved up here to East Meon in 1975.

(4.07/54.59)

SUE: So why did you choose East Meon then? Stumbled on it?

MALCOLM: Yes I did actually. When I found I was going to be made redundant, went to Salisbury on the Saturday morning, bought the Farmers Weekly, was coming out of Salisbury in the one way and was sitting in the traffic and just opened up the Farmers Weekly, didn't even look, and there was the page of the Situations Vacant and there was this job.

SUE: And that was on Lower Farm was it?

MALCOLM: Yes.

SUE: So that was on Wilson's farm?

MALCOLM: Yes. So moved up in 1975 and been here ever since.

SUE: And what were you doing on the farm to start with? Everything on Lower Farm?
(4.54/54.59)

MALCOLM: Yes all of it. The job description was Assistant to the Farmer. So initially the job was for I think Wilson said, 10 years until his son was old enough to run the farm himself, but the 10 years stretched to 33 years though!

SUE: Yes and it was mainly sheep?

MALCOLM: No, No we had sheep, there were 2 dairy herds. A 70 cow dairy herd at Lower Farm and Wilson rented a farm off Trinity College, Cambridge at Peake over at West Meon and they had another 70 cow dairy herd over there. About 400 sheep, about 300 acres of cereals, 40 beef cows, suckler cows and grew potatoes.

SUE: Gosh! That was a lot to look after! **(5.59/54.59)**

Say the names of them – that's fine

MALCOLM: There was the Cowman Charles. Relief was Mick Longley. Tractor Drivers were Les Phillips, John Cannings, George Cannings.

SUE: And they were all local people were they? **(6.53/54.59)**

MALCOLM: Yes John Cannings and George Cannings and Les, yes, they all lived all their life in the village. Well Les did didn't he? Charles – no he didn't. So there were 10 staff on the two farms plus Wilson.

SUE: So you all mucked in and did a bit of everything really, you didn't have specific jobs?
(7.20/54.59)

MALCOLM: Well yes, the tractor drivers did tractor driving, but obviously if someone wanted a hand or Kevin wanted a hand with something we would help him or I wanted help with the sheep they would help me or if help was wanted with the beef cows.

SUE: So farming must have been pretty different in those days?

MALCOLM: Oh yes – we didn't have all the big machinery.

SUE: No.

MALCOLM: I remember we done 5000 small bales of hay one day!

(8.01/54.59) SUE Crikey! All by hand? Wow!

MALCOLM: Yes. Well the tractors were doing it but they all had to be going on trailers and handled from one to the other and stacked in the barn. We used to do about 20,000 bales of hay and 20,000 bales of straw roughly a year.

SUE: And the bales were all different then weren't they?

MALCOLM: Yes, the little small ones.

SUE: Yes they are massive now!

MALCOLM: And we used to have to pick the potato ladies up.

SUE: The potato ladies! Oh right! Digging the potatoes! **(8.24/54.59)**

MALCOLM: That was educational! Very educational! Because they used to come up, most of the ladies in the village. Ginge used to go down with the tractor and trailer and pick them all up in the morning and they all had a section of field and the spinner used to come down and they would pick up and would all get paid by the bag.

SUE: So it was all the ladies from the village then?

MALCOLM: Yes, mostly the Vaughans that's who it was, because they used to live here!

GG: Yes after my Gran.

MALCOLM: Yes quite entertaining it was!

SUE: I bet you had some stories to tell! **(9.03/54.59)**

MALCOLM: Yes! You never upset them as they would just have a walk out!

SUE: And you needed them really!

MALCOLM: Oh yes!

SUE: When did it start to get quite mechanised then and you really noticed it changing? Just gradually? **(9.20/54.59)**

MALCOLM: Well it creeps up on you. Then Wilson got rid of the cows – the dairy herds.

SUE: Why was that – because it was impossible to make a living with Dairy Herds?

MALCOLM: Well not really - it was because round here it's so near the waterways and so the restrictions meant it wasn't economical to have big slurry towers and that sort of thing.

SUE: Oh – because of the danger of it going into the water. Okay, I'm with you. So then you concentrated on beef then. **(9.55/54.59)**

MALCOLM: The suckler cows went first then the dairy cows went because you couldn't get subsidy on the suckler cows because you had the dairy herd and then it was uneconomical to spend out thousands and thousands of pounds on machinery just for growing a few acres of cereals so Michael and Nick have taken over the cereals side of it and grow it on contract. George just has the profit out of it.

SUE: What? So they grow it on his land? **(10.52/54.59)**

MALCOLM: They do all the work.

SUE: But he always had sheep though?

MALCOLM: Oh yes.

(11.00/54.59)SUE And has that increased?

MALCOLM: Yes it's doubled.

SUE: So you lived on the farm didn't you for a while?

MALCOLM: Yes it was £38 a week when I come up.

SUE: What the rent?

MALCOLM: No – that's my wages in 1975. That's with overtime as well. You got paid a salary as you worked weekends – you had no set hours.

SUE: The job had to be done didn't it! **(11.33/54.59)**

MALCOLM: Then you had a rent free house, rates free, two pints of milk a day and I used to get half a hundred weight of dog biscuits a month for my collies.

SUE: And did you get some meat as well?

MALCOLM: No. You used to get a bit of beef at Christmas.

SUE: Potatoes? **(12.00/54.59)**

MALCOLM: Yes we used to get potatoes.

SUE: Did you say you had 38 years up there?

MALCOLM: No – 33 years.

SUE: And what happened then? You just retired from the farm? **(12.22/54.59)**

MALCOLM: No I had to have my knees done. Knees and sheep don't work together. Told me I had to have new knees put in – it's the impact you've got to avoid now.

SUE: So how did you get to this cottage then?

MALCOLM: I bought this in 1992 and rented it out to pay the mortgage. I had a rent free house and didn't have to find the rent.

In 2008 I retired.

SUE: But you're not retired though! **(13.14/54.59)**

MALCOLM: Well I retired from the farm.

SUE: And swapped farms?

MALCOLM: No my daughter lived here with her husband and my son in law took my job over and I took this house over. We did a swap over.

SUE: But you're still working though Malcolm aren't you?

MALCOLM: Yes I do a little bit here and there.

(13.35/54.59) SUE: And which is the farm that you've got your sheep on now?

MALCOLM: Oxenbourne Farm. Just keep a few. Have 6 rare Badger Faced sheep and 10 Scotch Black Faced Sheep.

SUE: Have they lambed yet? **(13.57/54.59)**

MALCOLM: No they don't lamb until the end of April when hopefully the weather is a bit better.

SUE: So – anything else you can think of?

MALCOLM: No! I couldn't tell you about the rest of it!!!! **(14.13/54.59)**



SUE: What? No funny little stories?

GG: You remember that picture Freddie Standfield put on the front cover of his book? That was you herding sheep through the village.

SUE: Yes round the High Street past the Post House. Yes that's a lovely photo.

GG: It is yes – you forgot that one didn't you?

MALCOLM: I expect I forgot lots of things! I think we had to do that a lot.

GG: Yes the sheep used to be in the church yard, didn't they, chewing the grass down?

MALCOLM: Yes we had to go 8 or 10 times as the sun had to be in the right place – about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Yes it was about 8 times I think.

GG: Yes was that where the sheep came from – out of the church yard?

MALCOLM: Yes they came out of the church yard – then they were cutting the old cherry tree down weren't they.

SUE: So where were you taking them from, out of the church yard then? **(15.03/54.59)**

MALCOLM: Taking them back up the farm.

SUE: And you walked all the way up there?

MALCOLM: Oh yes, used to walk the sheep back from Peake Farm, all the way over by The West Meon Hut all the way back

GG: Yes with the dogs

MALCOLM: You can't do it now because of the cars.

SUE: No you don't see them very often. Occasionally you see them crossing over in Langrish don't you. But, yes, too many cars! They get impatient with everybody! **(15.17/54.59)**

SUE: OK, anything else you can fill me in on Malcolm. What about your family? When did you have your girls?

MALCOLM: My son was born in 1971 at Romsey Hospital.

(15.51) SUE: And he still farms?

MALCOLM: Yes he works for Wilson Atkinson Farms at Peake Farm. My daughter was born in 1974, she works in Petersfield. And my other daughter was born in 1981 and she works for AWE.

SUE: So, your son lives on the farm now where you used to live. **(16.12/54.59)**

MALCOLM: Yes – my daughter lives on the farm as well.

GILL: Steve lives at Peake doesn't he?

SUE: Oh ok Malcolm thanks very much for that.

MALCOLM: I'm sure there's lots of other things but I can't think of at the moment.

SUE: Especially when you're asked straight out! You think of things at odd times don't you, not when you are necessarily asked about them!

SUE: Are you alright Gill to tell me a little bit about your history? **(16.43/54.59)**

GILL: Well if you give me where you want me to start!

SUE: Well shall we start at the beginning! So you were born in the village at 2 Eames Cottages.

GILL: Yes in 1949

SUE: And who were your mum and dad? (

17.00

GILL: Marjorie and Frank Hartley. My mother lived here most of her life but I think she originally came from Bramdean. When they moved to the village, probably seeking work with my grandparents, it was at a time when you could move around. If a cottage became vacant and you wanted to move it wasn't a problem. I think my mother told me they lived in a cottage at Coombe and she and her brother had to walk as tots to school in East Meon (from Coombe) and back every day and very often by themselves as I think my gran was in service.

SUE: Gosh times were different then weren't they? **(17.50/54.59)**

GILL: Yes I think my old great granny – there was quite a big family of them – lived in Chapel Street when it was just one row when the school, as it is now, wasn't there.

SUE: What was there before the school was there? Some old houses or something?
(18.03/54.59)

GILL : I think there was just a row of old houses in Chapel Street and probably just a field.

SUE: So were you actually born in the cottage – at home?

GILL : Yes, I think it was a home birth – even though you had to be registered as born in Petersfield District. Yes it was home deliveries then and my mother had all three of us at home. My older sister may have been born in this house before my Mum and Dad got that cottage, because my sister is two years older than me.

SUE: Ah I see, so your mum and dad lived here? **(18.45/54.59)**

GILL : My Gran lived here and I think my Mum and Dad maybe lived with them to start with until they got that little cottage there and that was in the days when the river was just mud banks.

SUE: Do you remember it flooding at all? **(19.01/54.59)**

GILL : Yes as I went to school up at the top.

SUE: Did you walk across the fields to go to school.

GILL : Well after we left this cottage here, my mother and father were allocated a council house, not sure if there was always the row in Temple Lane, the six cottages there, but they built Glenthorne Meadow which was just a field and my mum and dad got given one of the new houses.

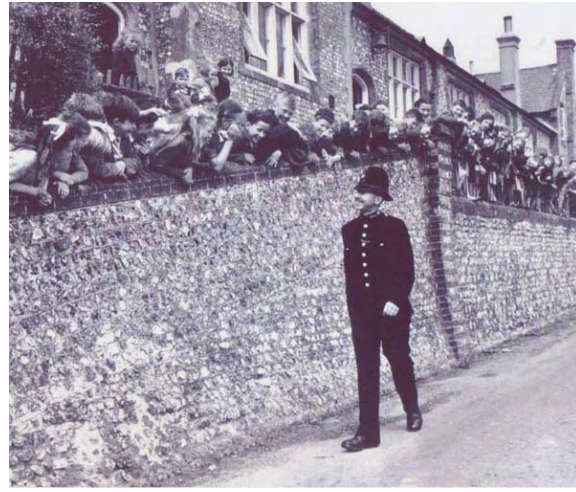
SUE: That would have been just after the war I guess, wouldn't it. **(19.35/54.59)**

GILL : Yes, yes in the 50's the early 50's and so we used to walk back past the New Inn – as it was then, not The Izaak. We would walk up the footpath and then cross the road and what is the garden that goes with The School House now. That we called 'the jungle' so it would be like a pathway and we would cross the road and walk through the jungle, come out the other end and go up the old school steps – you know – to the school.

20.11



*School playground,
photographed during road
drill exercise, 1949*



*Schoolchildren line up along the wall for
photograph with PC Dennis Thorne*

SUE: And where did you play? I always wondered where you played at that school.

GILL : There was a little bit at the front – a little round area at the front and there's the next bit just at the side of the house that went down to meet what we called the jungle. That was the playground with the old outside toilets just under the hill, and the school had the old coke fires with the railings round and you had your little bottle of milk that had to be put round to warm them up. Mr and Mrs Chambers were the caretakers and lived in the end cottage that's been sold off.

SUE: Oh yes, the school masters cottage. **(20.59/54.59)**

GILL : Yes, they lived in there – they were the caretakers.

SUE: So – how many classes were there?

GILL : Three

SUE: And that was right through wasn't it? From five until eleven? (21.09:

GILL : Yes – and then I went on to Petersfield, but I do remember the river flooding one year. We had to be picked up by a tractor and trailer and I was only about five so it was very vague memories of swirling water around the trailer and the men of the village. I remember my father was on the trailer helping the children on and off.



SUE: So it had flooded all the way along had it? **(21.38/54.59)**

GILL : It had come and it had gone right through, right to the church and I can remember coming round the corner into Church Street I suppose it is and that's where I remember the water swirling around the trailer wheels and that. My recollection - I would have been five - not very old.

SUE: No – that's good to remember that far back! I suppose something like that sticks in your mind doesn't it? **(22.00/54.59)**

GILL : It does, that's right, and getting back to living close to the river.

SUE: So was Eames flooded then at that time? The cottage – was it flooded?

GILL : I think we were living at Glenthorne Meadow then, but it did flood down here because my father's mother and granddad came down from Yorkshire to live at No 5 and she got flooded – it used to come right up and into the houses and she didn't stay down here very long because she was worried she would get flooded again. It never happened because they did the river, but I think in those days there was like a sluice gate. If you walk through the path you will see there is a pillar, a couple of pillars at the far end beyond No 5. **(23.00/54.59)** I've got a recollection there was a gate there and like a sluice gate across here where you park the cars, where you go down – you know – that dip into the river. I think it was Stan Jones that used to herd his cows through the river because he owned the field beyond Mr Street and there were cow sheds there and I'm sure he used to herd/drive his cows. But I remember visiting my Gran in these cottages when all you had was the old outhouses - your toilets outside and the old coppers inside, the old boil up coppers – you know – that you did your washing in because I remember my Gran – Wash Day - Mondays – Wash Day! And the old black ranges, they had old black ranges – I've got vague recollection of those.



SUE: And all the cottages were pretty tiny weren't they – before they had any sort of extension on them?

GILL : Yes – two up, two down sort of thing weren't they.?

24.15

SUE: So did you know Gwen Symes then? You must have done when she was here

GILL : Yes! Knew all the Symes – they all lived along here didn't they!

SUE: Yes – she lived in 3 and 4

GILL : Yes – she went round to Hill Hampton – her husband worked at Hill Hampton didn't he – Jack. Yes – May Norris, she was a Symes – I think she lived in this one! At one time! Was it before the Vaughans?

MALCOLM: Vaughan Norris lived here yes!

GILL : Was it before the Vaughans? After the Vaughans?

MALCOLM: Don't know.

GILL : Can't remember!

SUE: So then you spent most of the time – well you grew up in Glenthorne after you had moved there? **(24.54/54.59)**

GILL : After my granddad in Yorkshire died, my gran came to live with us a lot and my younger sister. We moved house quite a few times because in those days you could get council swaps very easily and we lived in 5 Temple Lane and my younger sister was born there I remember. Then my father was a Bus Driver so at one point there when we were growing up he had to move to Winchester Depot so we moved out of the village, but my mother didn't like it – couldn't settle in Winchester. She was an East Meon girl and we came back.

SUE: Did you have to change schools then? **(25.50/54.59)**

GILL : Yes I did change schools – we went to school in Winchester. But we came back and my Gran (all these cottages had come up for sale) and my Gran had managed to save up enough money over the years to buy No 4 and at that point my aunty, Aunty Pam, was living at No 5. You see – you were able to get cottages easily.

SUE: What did she pay for it – do you know? **(26.25/54.59)**

GILL : Goodness knows!

GILL : And we all came back and we squashed in with my gran at No 4. Three children, Mum and Dad and my Gran. Very cosy!

SUE: But that was before you had the house in Glenthorne?

GILL : No – that was after. We had moved to Temple Lane and then we went to Winchester. I'm going to get this wrong now. We lived at Kews Meadow at one point. You know where the Vaughans live now - when it was just a row of houses. I think that was before we went to Winchester because we had my Gran living with us and my sister obviously. We had 3 girls and my Gran – so my mum needed that extra room for my Gran and it was like two reception rooms down stairs and one was used as a bedroom for my Gran on the ground floor. But there was nothing else there then. I mean Kews Meadow was just a meadow where all the green and everything is now. It was just one big field because I don't think even the Village Hall was there in those days because it was the old

village hall – The Institute. I can remember in '63 - yes it was still a meadow in '63 because we had that awful snow didn't we and the drifts when you went up to where the Tosdevines live now at Spy Glass. The whole of that little lane – the drifts were right up to the top of both sides of the lane and we stayed at Kews Meadow during that winter because I remember everything being frozen; we used to play out at Kews Meadow because you could walk across the snow and not sink into it because it was so frozen.

28.20

SUE: So the area that's the Green now was actually called Kews Meadow?

GILL : Yes. I don't remember when the village hall was built.

SUE: '60's wasn't it?

GILL : I don't know, I can't remember, but I think we went to Winchester from Kews Meadow and then we came back and lived with my Gran and then we were lucky enough to get back onto the Council and get the house at 5 Temple. That's right we've lived in two houses in Temple Lane. No 2 and No 5 and then we left home.

SUE: So what did you do Gill when you left home? **(29.00/54.59)**

GILL : When I first left school, I worked for Mr Whitt in the store that's now Corner Cottage. A butchers shop come everything. Sold everything! I used to work there after school just before I left school and then when I left school I went to work for Mr Whitt and I think I earned (I might be wrong) £3 a week and it was in the days when Mrs Whitt used to make lovely pasties on Tuesdays and Thursdays and everybody would be coming in at midday to buy her lovely fresh pasties.

29.41

SUE: What about the shops in the village because there were a lot weren't there?

GILL : Yes – there were four when we were children. There was the Post Office, obviously, and there was Mr Whit's and then opposite The Izaak that was Mr Brooks' store.

SUE: What did he sell? **(30.00/54.59)**

GILL : Geoff Brooks – he sold everything. Everybody seemed to sell everything. They were like General Stores. There was one shop - is it The Tudor House now – where the Blakstads live.

SUE: They used to live there.

GILL : That used to be a shop and I can't remember the name of the people that ran the shop but I can still picture it being a funny little old shop with wooden floors. Then they made the Spar Shop and they stopped the shop being there and then it became the current shop.

SUE: But there were even more shops a long time ago? **(30.44/54.59)**

GILL : Years ago where the Wyatts are there was a butchers shop there - where Lorna and Leal Wyatt live, that was a butchers shop all those years ago – so that was four shops and then there was the Bakery. Bill Fairbanks had a Bakery two doors away from The Izaak; there was like an alleyway that went round to the back. I never went round to the back, but he used to bake his bread and cakes, lovely cakes, from there and sell them to the shops and we could always buy fresh bread and cakes, lovely cakes and also his wife still lives –I don't know what the cottages are called – on the corner, opposite the shop.

SUE: The current shop? **(31.39/54.59)**

GILL : Yes he used to do fish and chips and he used to make lovely Italian (I think he was Italian), ice cream. So we could always go and get our fish and chips when he opened and lovely ice creams. So yes, it was a different village to the one shop that we have today.

MALCOLM: Do you remember when Mr Gamble was here.

GILL : I actually worked for Freddie Gamble didn't I.

MALCOLM: He was priceless wasn't he! **(32.12/54.59)**

GILL : He was a brilliant shop owner wasn't he!

SUE: Which shop did he own?

GILL : He owned the Spar. There were the Winters after Freddie Gamble. Somebody called the Winters and then perhaps another lot.

MALCOLM: You had a job to get in there on a Saturday morning.

MALCOLM: Because Freddie used to have a book. He used to pick it up on Tuesday morning and on Thursday morning in summer months when I didn't get up there early he'd come and all the groceries would be on the table.

GILL : We had our groceries delivered from the Co-op in Petersfield. They used to do home delivery. **(32.47/54.59)**

SUE: I remember that when I was little, walking down to the shops.

GILL : And we used to have a fish van coming round selling fresh fish.

SUE: So actually you could be quite self-sufficient here couldn't you here in the village?

GILL : Well we were.

SUE: Because people didn't have the cars to get out and go shopping.

33.13

GILL : When supermarkets and that came in, my sister and I used to go on the bus into Petersfield on a Saturday morning, go to the Saturday morning Flicks – you know the Pictures, do Mum's shopping and come back. Obviously it started to be the time when you could get things a little bit cheaper in the supermarket. **(33.35/54.59)**

SUE: They were a bit of a novelty when they first...

GILL : Yes, that's right! And of course when we were young you always had the school coach. My father was a bus driver and he used to drive the school buses as well and the school bus; he would go right out to Coombe, because obviously the coaches were smaller in those days. So they would come through the village up to Coombe, pick everybody up, back down and then come and go round Ramsdean.

SUE: So lots of stops then on it! **(34.08/54.59)**

GILL : Yes round Ramsdean and Stroud, then onto Petersfield, and then there would be another bus that would go and do Privett to Peterfield. It would go up to Privett and West Meon and do that one. Yes things have really changed. I think the Double Decker comes in now and goes round by the school doesn't it? And turns round?

SUE: I never quite understand why it's a double decker myself because I never see that many people on it.

GILL : It's a school bus. That one is a public transport one as well but it's mainly for the school children. Quarter to eight in the morning.

SUE: Yes- not a designated school bus though is it?

GILL : No

34.47

SUE: So where did you meet your husband?

GILL : He was a village boy - and his father - his grandfather was a tenant farmer at Longwood Estate and then after his grandfather died they weren't allowed to take on the tenancy so all the boys went their different ways. My husband's father bought a little farm at Warsdown which is at Drayton (or is it Riplington), Drayton, - up over the hill where are I think the Marks live now up Halnaker Lane.

SUE: So is that farm still in existence?

GILL : I think the Marks's bought it when my husband's father sold it. I think Henry Marks bought it. I think John and Henry bought it. I'm not sure if Henry Marks still owns it. I think his son owns it. My husband's family moved up and lived in TeMalcolmlars Cottages on the end because he did agricultural contracting so obviously I met my husband in the village because he was a village boy.

SUE: And you've got children have you? **(36.27/54.59)**

GILL : Yes, we've got four children between us. Obviously we'd had prior marriages and then we got together when those marriages didn't work out and got one son between us but four children altogether.

SUE: It's amazing to think you were born here and lived here for that long - it's lovely! **(36.54/54.59)**

GILL : Yes! If my mother had been alive she would have known more stories of village life. I mean I can remember when the last bus home from Petersfield was quarter past ten, so we would go in on a Saturday night and have to make sure we didn't miss that last bus because our parents didn't have cars in those days. So if you missed the last bus you were in real trouble in more ways than one! There was an old chap, he was a village man, called Jessie Tubbs. **(38.00/54.59)** He was a village character and he was always on the last bus and he'd been into the pubs in Petersfield and he always used to make us laugh because he would yodel all the way home and play spoons. He had some metal spoons that he would play so it was quite a laugh for us to be on the bus with Jessie. But I can remember times when the New Inn had an Off Licence and at 6 o'clock in the evening, the Off Licence would open, I don't know what time the pub opened because it didn't open like they do today!

SUE: No – they were only open in the afternoon, a bit in the afternoon – sort of lunch time and then the evening!

GILL : As children we would go round the back of the pub, into the Off Licence door and go and buy a bottle of lemonade and crisps and take home. In those days there was money on the bottles, so you collected your bottles and could take your bottles back and get another packet of crisps.

SUE: Did you have a Corona van deliver round or anything? **(38.43/54.59)**

GILL : I think it might have been Hartridges even. Hartridges delivered by lorry to the shops so maybe there was a Corona man as well I can't remember. Always, in those days, the pubs seemed to be buzzing. I don't know how busy they are now – we don't go to the pub that often. **(39.10/54.59)**

MALCOLM: Well they were meeting places weren't they? They didn't have emails and mobile phones and television or anything.

GILL : Yes they were only open at certain times. Sunday lunchtime they were open and that was it on a Sunday.

SUE: Yes. It's comparatively recently isn't it. **(39.30/54.59)**

GILL : I have vivid memories of having good New Year's Eves in the pubs. Everyone would come out and do the Conga right up through the village streets and over the bridges and there were lots of good dances weren't there Malcolm in the Village Hall and discos. But we don't seem to get them regularly now. **(39.55/54.59)**

MALCOLM: Tosdevine used to do them.

SUE: For families or for youngsters?

GILL : Well for people over the age of 18. I suppose you had to be to be able to go. But there were always Christmas parties and things for the children in the old Institute and that's where the school plays and things used to take place.

SUE: So it sounds like there used to be more going on then? **(40.15/54.59)**

MALCOLM: In those days most of the village was made up people with something to do with the land - farmers, forestry workers.

GILL : In those days I used to know everybody that lived in the village.

SUE: Whereas now people go out away from the village to work.

GILL : And there was always the old boys of the village who would always sit on the bench – there were probably four or five of them there with their walking sticks watching the world go by.

SUE: Tell the kids off if they were naughty or something!

40.57

SUE: Did you always have a village policeman?

GILL : Yes. He used to live up Glenthorne Meadow at one time. That used to be the Police House up there – before those were built where Dave lives. I think, now what number would it be? It's where the Towneys live now and I think that was the police house.

SUE: And of course, you had a Village Nurse and Doctor didn't you?

GILL : Yes, the Village Nurse was the last house coming down Glenthorne Meadow beyond the right going up - it was the last house. That was where you would go if you fell off your bike like I did once and had to go on a daily basis to have a nasty graze looked after.

SUE: And you could turn up at the Nurse's house? **(41.39/54.59)**

GILL : She would tell you what time to come and you would go and knock on the door and she would let you in and dress your wound and send you on your way again. And there was always a clinic, a baby clinic down at the Old Institute. And we used to have a Methodist Chapel. Ruth Blackman used to have the Methodist Chapel and even though we were Church of England, my mother encouraged us to go to church and we used to go to the Methodist Chapel.

SUE: And that's the one in Temple Lane? **(42.17/54.59)**

GILL : No that's the one - if you go past where Corner Cottage is, across the road, there is a little alleyway that goes up. It's a house now – but that used to be the Methodist Chapel.

SUE: There's a little church up Temple Lane isn't there?

GILL : Yes, that used to be the Catholic Church. So we used to go to the Methodist Chapel and we also went to Church. I know the vicar cringed when we were sort of talking over our childhood after my mother died. To think we went to C of E and were in the Church Choir but she also encouraged us to join Ruth's flock because Ruth used to let the back room out for the Youth Club. So went to Youth Club in the back room of the Methodist Chapel and she got up coach tours for everybody to go to Bognor every summer. You can remember that can't you? **(43.24/54.59)**

MALCOLM: I can remember seeing her do it.

GILL : Pat came on one because Jenny Wheeler was expecting Alistair I think, and they over calculated how many people should be on this coach and when we got to Bognor, the coach driver went off and left us there. He said he would come back later but he wouldn't come back because he said he was over laden! So of course, poor Jenny, she will probably remember this if you speak to Jenny Wheeler - she was worried because she wasn't very far off having her baby and we were stuck in Bognor and they sent out another coach with more seats on it. **(44.05/54.59)**

SUE: But you'd got down there with the same people on it?

GILL : Yes we did get down there but when we got there he realised that some of the seats had 3 in a seat and there was probably about 8 across the back instead of 5! It was when he tried to get up Harting Hill I think he decided the coach had too many people on it anyway! So we used to have our outings with Ruth Blackman who organised these every year and it was a great delight because that was the only time that you could get to the seaside! Parents didn't have cars!

SUE: But there was a lot going on then wasn't there for children? Everyone obviously got together and you made your own fun!

44.47

GILL : Yes, yes! Well I was in the Church Choir in the days when the Rev Laurie was vicar. He was there for quite a while and we would go round carol singing. He had his car and there was probably someone else with a car and there was the grown up choir people as well as young. He had a mix of ages and I can remember going round. **(45.24/54.59)** all the big houses who would invite us round to do carols. I can remember going into the Court House one year and going down those stone corridors as quite a young child and just thinking "Gosh" and having mince pies and drinks. We were rewarded for our singing with refreshments and that was quite interesting as a child. And we also had gymkhanas and flower shows in the field next to Templars Brow. You know - the red houses between us and where Clive Tosdevine lives now - that field was always where the gymkhana and the flower show was.

SUE: And that was an annual event? **(46.30/54.59)**

GILL : Yes - usually in August, but I can remember it was always cold. You would go up there to watch the ponies and jumping and it was always chilly Another thing I can remember was the football field was in Wilson's field further down the road where the gravel pit is on the other side of the road. I can remember my father was in the football team and I can remember going as a small child up there to watch him playing football. Then they brought it back into the village down to where it is now. **(47.07/54.59)**

SUE: Don't think it hardly exists now does it?

GILL : Have they disbanded?

MALCOLM: Clanfield have taken over haven't they?

GILL : So there isn't an East Meon Team anymore?

SUE: No I don't think there is; not enough people interested.

GILL : Oh! That's a shame"

47.26

SUE: What was it like going to the school – the Old School? And did you enjoy your school days there? (

GILL : Well I seemed to. There were obviously not that many children.

SUE: Oh ok so there were quite small classes?

GILL : Well I expect they were, but when you are small they always look like big classrooms don't they! I can remember we had one teacher, Miss Hastie her name was, a very tiny teacher and she always sat on a really tall chair to make her look biGill er!

SUE: Oh ok – to tower over you! **(48.03/54.59)**

GILL : Yes! She sort of springs to mind! But we always enjoyed running through the "Jungle" because we didn't have to worry about cars. We were obviously told to look both ways but as children we would go and sit up on the lynch gate of the Church when cars started to be around and write down the car numbers. We would probably sit there all day and you got half a dozen car numbers. **(48.03/54.59)** It was such a great delight to hear a car coming and we got all excited. Even when one whizzed through the village you had time to write the car number down as they didn't go fast in those days. As children we used to go up into Duncombe Woods playing because you were allowed to pick primroses in those days and for Mothering Sunday we would go up into the woods behind where the Cannings' live.

SUE: Your Mother wasn't worried about you doing that then was she? **(49.05/54.59)**

GILL : She used to say "make sure you make lots of noise because of the adders""

SUE: Goodness Me!

GILL : I wouldn't want to go in there now! She used to say "stick to the paths and make lots of noise"! Because there are snakes up there! I mean now, I wouldn't let my children go and do that! We would take a hazel stick and pick bunches of Primroses and tie them to the stick and come home and then there would be a Mothering Sunday service and we would go with our little bunches of primroses to the Church for the service. I mean none of this costs you money. In those days you were allowed to pick a few primroses.

SUE: Well you didn't buy presents or things did you. **(50.00/54.59)**

MALCOLM: Couldn't afford them!

SUE: No! It wasn't like that then! It wasn't materialistic like it is now!

GILL : No the older people like my mother and grandmother would go out collecting wood. That was great excitement, to go off collecting the old pieces of wood that had fallen down. In Duncombe in those days you were allowed to pick it up. These days it has to

stay there to rot doesn't it! But then you picked up and took it home for your fires because you had to try and survive. I mean everybody had large gardens in those days and they all grew their own veg and you had chickens. I know people have got chickens again today and people are growing veg again today but it did seem to move away from that but it's coming back again now.

SUE: That's right because values are changing again now aren't they! **(50.55/54.59)**

GILL : That's right. Everyone wants to try and grow their own if they can and a lot of people keep two or three chickens don't they in the country now and it was the thing you did in those days.

51.15



SUE: So when you were in these cottages here in Eames Cottages, you had a loo down the bottom of the garden did you?

GILL : Well the loos were sort of where the extensions are now – they probably come out to where the row of sheds is. And you had the sort of old truck that came round once a week to pick up the buckets.

MALCOLM: And put it in the field!

SUE: Did they?

MALCOLM: Yes they took it up to Fiveways – that's what John was telling me. He would be the guy to talk to as well!

GILL : I mean my mum's memories go back to the war with all the different troops stationed around here When they lived in these cottages and there was an air raid warning they used to run up round Greenway and up that little lane, little narrow bit, up to where Judy Barber used to live. They used to go up there and try shelter if they could.

SUE: Were there Air Raid Shelters around though? There must have been? **(52.13/54.59)**

GILL : No! She used to say that they just used to run! The hedge is quite steep either side. They used to just go up there and hope that that would be enough as obviously they were targeting Mercury. All the troops were stationed around in different fields and that around here.

SUE: So – was your father in the war? **(52.37/54.59)**

GILL : My mother met my father up at HMS Mercury when it was the Navy Camp and my mother was in the NAAFI up there so that's how they met. My father was born in Leeds so he's a Yorkshire man but he stayed down here after the war and married my mum and never moved – apart from as I say going to Winchester and mum getting homesick.

SUE: Your mum wouldn't have wanted to move out of the village again would she!

GILL : No mum loved East Meon

SUE: Yes! Like we all do!

GILL : Yes! Gets in the blood doesn't it?

I'm trying to think of anything else that I can remember!

Oh I can remember one particular time – I couldn't find the picture – when the River Meon dried up completely and there was a picture of my Gran.

SUE: Before it was bricked up? **(53.52/54.59)**

GILL : No after it was bricked up – because obviously it runs shallower now. There was a picture of her sitting in the river in an armchair with no water in it at all! I wish I could find it.

SUE: Was that one of the very hot summers in the 70's?

MALCOLM: '76

GILL : I don't know whether it was '76 or after.

MALCOLM: No – '76. It dried right up in '76! Wilson's pond went!

GILL : It could have been '76 then. The Navy Camp was quite big and at one point it was drawing quite a lot of water up there which reduced the flow of the river didn't it. When we were teenagers we used to have dances up at the Navy Camp and they used to run a minibus from Petersfield and pick us up and take us up to the dances and bring us home again.

SUE: Meet all the sailors!

GILL : Yes! That's another memory! Trying to think if there's anymore!

SUE: Well that's brilliant Gill! Thank you every so much! It's really good to have all of that!
(54.59/54.59)