

## KINGSLAND ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewer: Sally Deakin

Interviewee: Cliff Davis

Age: 82

DOB: 10.6.1936

Date of interview: 20.11.18 and 30.11.18

**SUMMARY PARAGRAPH:** Cliff moved to the village at 6 weeks old with his family and his 2 older brothers. He later had another sister and brother. He went to Kingsland School then Lucton School. He joined the church choir aged 8 and has been singing with the choir for 75 years as of May 2019. He worked for the Council, based at Showers Farm then Shirlheath for 26 years before working at Kington quarries until he retired. The conversation includes many early memories of the village, Kingsland school, WW2, evacuees and joining the church choir just before his eighth birthday. Descriptions of the pubs and activities there, the village shop (now Edgefield), Post Office and telephone exchange, bakehouse, cycle shop and leather shop, Dr Vaughan, Lucton School, hop picking, Kingsland Station and the railway, the church and choir, football, cricket and Luctonians. He also has memories of Rector Jobling and Mr Hamlyn Williams.

### TIME CODED SUMMARY

TIME CODE	CONTENT
00.00	Cliff giving an outline of his life in Kingsland covering his arrival at 6 weeks old and living in Kingsland all his life. 1970s moved to Leominster for 2.5 years to get on the housing list then moved into his current home in 1977. Worked in the village most of his life – 26 years for Herefordshire County Council Highways Dept. then the quarries at Kington until he retired. Involvement in cricket and football teams since a child. Kingsland cricket club folding in 1952, playing cricket elsewhere then started the cricket club at Luctonians in 1960. Retired from cricket 3 years ago
04.18	Playing rugby at Lucton school but going back to football after leaving school. Descriptions of playing in minor leagues for Kingsland as goalkeeper and captain; representing Herefordshire county; had trial for England Amateurs; games for Hereford United 2nds; 5 seasons with Kington in Mid Wales league and winning the league; changed to playing Rugby for Luctonians 1966-1978
07.29	Retiring from rugby; description off brother in Fleet Air Arm and breaking his back when ejected from a Phantom; loss of two other brothers earlier in his life; giving up rugby to stay fit to look after his parents in the future; continued with cricket.
08.30	Earliest memory – description of 1939/40 fire at wooden club house/tennis courts next to Mortimer Meadow; how it happened; whole village watching; firemen stationed at The Croase; postmaster cycling to The Croase to ring the fire bell in the tower.
11.01	Description of the club and what it was used for; belonged to Nicholsons at Croftmead. Description of living in house in Birch Avenue; his family in No. 1, his grandmother in No. 2. Youngest with 2 older brothers when they moved there; later had a sister and younger brother; Lived there until got married 1972. Description of their house; garden; Birch Walk path from Rectory Corner to the Church. The field between called 'The Greens'; used by school as playing field at top; Motte and Bailey; all one big playing area; description of paddling in the Pinsley
14.13	House was brand new; description of being born 6 weeks premature in Leominster; bothers 2.5 and 7 years older at time; sister then born 1942 and brother 1945; description of father's work in steel erecting building aerodromes across the country until end of the war; then built crane for Kingsland Sawmills and became the crane driver; then at Dale's in Leominster; then worked for Mr. Dale at Eyton Hall.
17.54	Next memories were the war; a wooden hut being built for the Home Guard and cadets on land next to his house. Description of parades/marching; watching their manoeuvres round Lugg Bridge; building also used as a club and played autoball and ping pong aged 8-10. Keeping the key for the hut at their house.

20.17	No Village Hall and land was an orchard; description of orchard, description of lads playing football in the middle and taking apples. Description of Mr Hamlyn Williams owning the land, living in Angel House, building the house Cliff lived in
21.37	Starting school aged 5; description of walking to school across the field; description of the school building; in Miss Mary Morgan's class for first 3 years; classroom description – a big iron stove; tables and chairs; older boys with lidded desks; boys in 3 sections Miss Morgan taught; description of learning to read and letters on strings; learning his tables. Miss Morgan reading stories.
24.57	Description of moving to next class with new teacher 'Fat' Miss Morgan [two teachers with same surname] when 7/8. Description of classroom. Divided by curtain with a different class in the other part. Next class Mrs Davies and getting ready for 11 plus. Final classroom Mr Jones; children at school until 14. Description of oldest brother leaving school at 14 and starting work as a porter at Kingsland Station. Then to Leominster train engine maintenance workshops at nights. Then became engine fireman on Kington 'coffee pot' train and Worcester trains. Description of why Kington train called the 'coffee pot'; Brother the train fireman on last passenger train that went to Kington in roughly 1956 /58.
29.02	Description of Kingsland Station. Platform; porter's room; waiting room; stationmaster's area; signal box; gates across road near Border Oak; old porters' house. Selling coal from the yard/now Bengry's. Brother Carl getting scholarship to Lucton and then he went too. Description of them cycling to Lucton School every day. Descriptions of falling off his bike in the rain. Description of riding down the lane/3 of them with arms round each other's shoulders and 'mayhem' at the bottom.
32.50	Description of what Lucton School was like when he went there. Memories of his first day. An older boy accidentally hitting him in the eye. Description of getting a ducking by older boys in the changing rooms on first day.
35.01	Descriptions of where they went as boys when at Kingsland School; back of Lugg Mill and the Weir; Tarrs Wood climbing trees and bird nesting; Description of the weir and pool and swimming in the summer. Funny story about Mr Hamlyn Williams swimming/his costume/teaching them to dive and falling in. Lads, kids and evacuees all up there
37.25	Evacuees descriptions; his grandmother having 3 from Bootle. Filling the school and having to split into morning and afternoon sessions. Description s of various evacuees. The Pratt family at Kaarlsons/4 brothers. The 2 youngest, 1 marrying a Kingsland girl/lives in Hereford.
39.36	Kingsland during the war. Description of shop next to school [Edgefield]/the building. Description of the Bakehouse; bread and also baking potatoes they bought for 1 penny at school lunchtime. Story about his accident with the bacon machine handle. Mr Beale shop owner; description of Jack Wood working there, delivering round village on 3-wheel bike with box on back. Baker Jack Wood [a different person] living on Eardisland road and wife was nurse for the village working with Dr Vaughan
43.16	Dr Vaughan/Derek Vaughan's father, practising at the Red House; Orchard Close was then his garden; description of playing there; brick building surgery at back of house; description of his surgery/times/ house visits. Description of queuing up then Dr Vaughan making up medicines and what he said. Description of his accident in winter 1947; playing truant from school to slide on the ice with his brother and falling on a frozen piece of wood; his dad cycling him on bar of his bike to Dr Vaughan; having 3 stitches; putting yellow stuff on it like lemon curd with penicillin in; penicillin new then.
48.20	Story of going to Hereford pantomime with his injury and being helped by Mrs Lewis of Cobnash who did school dinners and was French. Gratitude to Dr Vaughan who fixed his leg.
49.43	Description of the Post Office and telephone exchange room. Mr and Mrs Williams running PO and telephone exchange during the war and afterwards. Ali Davies followed them. Description of how the telephone exchange worked and connecting calls. Working for Bengry's in the office at 17/18 and connecting their calls. Story about listening to the Test Match on the Post Office radio via the fourth line while he worked.
54.04	Description of next job at the Council Office in the front room of Showers Farm – surveyor and him; 1958-1970 roughly; then office built at Shirlheath depot. Tom Morgan owning Showers Farm, living at Green Park over the road while farming the land round Showers; his sisters living in Showers Farm - teacher Mary Morgan, Sylvia and Lily. His son Arthur carried on Showers after him. Description of his desk in bay window overlooking lawns; croquet hoops; sisters gardened.

56.32	Four pubs in Kingsland; The Monument; The Lion, The Angel, The Corners; description of The Lion 'bleak' 'beer house'. Story about charging for darts by having to buy 2 halves after a game. Walking to The Monument with his parents after Sunday evening church.
58.57	Few cars; who owned them – doctor/vicar/1-2 farmers and Hamlyn Williams Rolls Royce Reg CUL4. Description of playing hockey on roller skates on the road outside The Corners.
01.01.07	Description of The Angel inside compared to now. Bar; smoke room; residents' room; rooms upstairs; private dining room. Having fun there – darts/cards/air rifle team. Long shed at back for shooting in. Shooting at The Corners Inn upstairs. Description of The Corners Inn then and now; cycle and repairs shop and leather shop on end. Leather shop for saddles; run by Mr Hodges [he thinks]; Serge Preece running the cycle shop in spare time/was also daytime lorry driver for the Council. How the front of The Corners looked/alley between it and the Cycle shop. Description of the inside of The Corners. Beer drunk at the back. Kiosk by the fire for orders. Darts. Description of beer taken straight from barrels at the back. Cider and bottled beer too. Description of the 'old boys' sitting round the fire playing cards.
01.06.54	'Old Mr Bengry' teaching him to play crib at The Corners. Smoking pipes; no food.
01.07.43	The Church and the Choir; 10 May 2019 will have sung in choir for 75 years; Description of joining the choir at 8 in 1944. 13 choirboys plus adults; 5 pairs of brothers were choirboys. Description of all the pairs of brothers – who they were, parents and where they lived. Who the other 3 boys were/parents/where lived. One choirboy from cottage by Must Mill; can't see it now; [redacted/silence on audio 1.10.22 to 1.10.44]
01.11.31	Choirboys joined at 8. Rector Jobling ran the choir. Living in The Rectory where Smith's live now. Story about how he pushed Rector Jobling, who was ill, in a bath chair from the Rectory to the Church though the wood over the field on Sundays. Rector Jobling retiring and moving to Birch Avenue owned by Hamlyn Williams. Memories of Jobling – description of services. Description of going to church twice and Sunday School as well
01.14.18	Mr Weaver from Cobnash taking Sunday School; also tenor in the choir. Description of Sunday School. Where Mr Weaver lived up Broomy Lane. Description of choir members; names of 5 tenors; Bert Crump a member. Description of Jobling tapping his brass ring on the pew to keep the choirboys in order. Choir practice at 6.45 on Thursdays. Mr Jones schoolmaster taking over from Jobling and practice in the school in winter. Difficulty of getting choir members now.
01.18.30	Description of going hop picking at Street Farm as a child. Bus picking everyone up; sitting at the crib; climbing hop poles to get 'the flags'; lunchtime exploring and the wood; paddling and falling in the Pinsley; gathering wood for fires to boil the kettle; loading the bags on the truck; going up to the farm and looking around the hop kilns; description of the kilns process and hop pockets; enjoying the hop picking; having his own crib when older and earning money; the party/feast at the end at Street Farm; getting food you didn't usually get in the war/trifles
01.22.38	Stories of 'incidents' in the hop fields. Cart horse running away and a German POW from the Presteigne camp stopping it running into children playing. Thunderstorm story about Mrs Davis from Cobnash and the shed rattling. Age 10-12.
01.25.48	Climbing trees. Story about falling off. Extending school hols so everyone could hop pick. POW camp at Presteigne. POWs in Kingsland. Alfred Schultz who never married and Vernon Shatke who married marge and stayed. Freda Jenkins secretary at Kingsland Sawmills married another POW [Rudi ??].
01.29.15	Description of involvement with the church. Story of playing in church at 3; joining choir at 7 yrs 11 months May 10 <sup>th</sup> 1944; description of tests he did to join by Rev. Jobling. Working in the churchyard and still doing it. Becoming church warden in 1970s. 18 years church warden and 10 years as deputy.
01.31.47	Story about climbing tower then crawling along the church beams to change the old lights. Changing the new lights using a ladder for most. Losing balance on the ladder and the ladder falling and breaking a leaded glass window in 80s/90s.
01.36.19	Football in Kingsland. Description of watching as youngster; ceasing during war and restarting. Playing football and cricket on recreation ground, field behind the fire station. Father running junior Kingsland football team he and his brother played for. Playing as goalkeeper for Kingsland and Leominster minors at 15. Playing in Kingsland football team. Description of first game – playing on same day as Bill Barrow's daughter getting married and going to wedding, reception then playing the game. Beating Radnor Valley 3-0. Being picked for Herefordshire County amateur side. Short spell with Hereford

	United Birmingham league side when their goalkeeper broke arm and he replaced their reserve. until 1960. Played 5 games but stopped as rues said he would not have been able to play for Kingsland if he stayed. Returned as captain of Kingsland and won league.
1.40.23	Travelling around with the football team in Markham's bus. Winning the HFA Junior Cup 2 years running in late 1959/60. Not done by another team for 50 years. Cliff the captain. Moved to Kington football team and played in mid Wales league for 5 and a half seasons. Kingsland FC continued but folded. Restarted as Sunday football but stopped in 1980s.
1.43.07	Cricket – played at Lucton school and in summer holidays played for Kingsland CC if short. Also played in evening knockouts when at school. Played in 1952, year he left school but side folded; all old except him. No cricket team 1952-1960. He played at Eardisland and Shobdon in these years. In 1960 a few got together who played elsewhere, himself and Ray Jones, decided they could raise a team. Started playing on recreation ground in middle of football pitch. Description of getting pitch ready for cricket. Then got a piece off side of rugby pitch off North Road [before Luctonians]. Description of how they got the cricket square ready from a field. Kingsland CC started again in 1960. Continued until early 70s and in meantime moved to Mortimer Park at Luctonians. Made a square between 2 rugby pitches.
1.47.25	Description of Luctonians starting on the Boars Field at back of St Michael's Avenue. Then moving to North road. Then buying Mortimer Park land. Cricket moving to Luctonians. After 2-3 years became Luctonians Cricket Club.
1.49.06	Bird nesting as a boy. Description of where they went bird nesting and what they did. Description of land below Tarrs wood being moor land, not farmed. Description of buzzards and climbing a very tall fir tree by Tarrs wood to look at the nest and eggs but not taking them.
01.52.48	Biggest changes? – housing. Description of how Kingsland used to be, few houses and descriptions of which houses existed from Corners to The Monument and fields between. Mentions of who lived in which house. No street lights. Memory of Boarsfield being built. Knowing everyone who lived in every house but not having a clue today which sad.
0 56 24	Favourite memory? – playing football and cricket. Being a choir member and enjoyment singing. Visiting the pubs when old enough. Description if what pubs were like and lots of fun and singing. Description of August bank holiday fete, sports and flower show together at beginning of August. Description of it. Stopped when they changed the bank Holiday to the end of August. Description of the obstacle course.
2.00.24	END