

## KINGSLAND ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewer: Sally Deakin

Interviewee: Mary Archer

Age: 91

DOB: 19.8.1927

Date of interview: 10.12.18

**SUMMARY PARAGRAPH:** Mary Archer came to Kingsland with her husband in 1964 to live in 2 Jubilee Cottages which were owned by her father who had been left them by her grandfather. She talks about the Lewis family history and her great grandfather who started and owned the Jubilee Wagon Works at Jubilee House (now The Garth) which was then left to and then run by his youngest son Will/Bill, her great uncle. She has memories of visits there when a young girl. Her great grandmother also ran a laundry from the building which is now Markham's garage. She did all the washing for Lucton School and others and the profits paid for the building of Jubilee Cottages. The interview also covers her memories of what Kingsland and her house were like when she moved here in the 1960s and memories of putting in mains water, sewerage and pavements up Lugg Green Road. She also recalls shops, pubs, doctors, the church and describes where her children played. She also talks about Kingsland Sawmills where she worked for 23 years and also doing paid blackcurrant picking at a farm in Shirlheath with her children.

### TIME CODED SUMMARY

TIME CODE	CONTENT
00.00	Lived in Jubilee Cottages for 54 years/1964; daughter aged 7. Description of her life – born in Brecon; father worked on the railways; started school near Ebbw Vale aged 5; moving to Llandrindod Wells and twin brothers born; then Llandovery in rented house. Home for rest of father's working life; went to school and married there. Husband in Army; when demobbed they lived with his parents in Southampton for a short time. Returned to Llandrindod Wells for a few years. Moved to Brecon; husband worked on dam building then milk delivery man for Co-Op. Father retired; he owned Jubilee cottages and No. 1 became vacant so father/mother moved here. Her brother was in 2 Jubilee Cottages at the time; marriage ended and it became vacant. At time husband a salesman with van for Pailthorpe sausages/bacon/pies etc covering all North and mid Wales. Then applied for/got job as a postman in Leominster and worked for PO until retired.
04.45	Moved to No 2 Jubilee Cottages when eldest daughter 7 and other daughter 4; most of schooling at Kingsland School. Mary worked at Kingsland Sawmills in the office for 23 years. Retired and husband died 7-8 months after her retirement. Been a widow for 28 years.
06.07	Describing how her father came to own Jubilee cottages. Lewis family owned the Jubilee Works. Great great grandfather came from Bedstone. Was a progressive thinker for the time as had big family but educated and put in apprenticeships all his children. His son/her great grandfather apprenticed as a carpenter and wheelwright. He and her great grandmother at one stage lived in Yarpole and set up a business at Jubilee House [now The Garth]. He had 3 children – eldest his daughter Susan, eldest son Charles was her grandfather, younger brother Will.
08.32	Description of Charles her grandfather who she knew. Won scholarship to Lucton school; she has his signed/dated leaving bible and prayer book. Story about 10 years ago on France on holiday she saw shoes in a chateau where each shoe could fit either foot. Same as boots made for her grandfather for Lucton School made by the Kingsland village shoemaker which fitted either foot. Left school at 16 which good then, children leaving/working at 13/14. Left and did apprenticeship with someone in Ipswich she thinks. She remembers when later he was Clerk of the Works for the Duke of Beaufort in Gloucestershire. Her father had a lot of schooling at the estate village school.
11.55	Mary knew her grandfather when he was older and retired from Beaufort. When a little girl she went from Wales by train to Bucknell and her grandfather met them at the station in his car. Felt proud he had a car, not many people had cars. Description of sitting in the back of his big Morris Cowley with a fold back hood. At time he was roads and bridges surveyor for Knighton and District council during his retirement. He lived in Wigmore. No old age pension at that time.

13.09	Younger son [of great great grandfather] Will Lewis inherited the Jubilee Works and all the money. Susan inherited the Jubilee Cottages. Her grandfather was eldest son but cut off without a penny but she doesn't know why. Uncle Will/Bill [known by both names] had the business and she recalls visiting him a couple of times when a little girl. Description of a visit – going up orchard, buildings, must have had a forge to do the metal strapping for the wheels, he had bee skeps she'd not seen before. Took them up to one of the sheds and showed them his coffin. Was 'horrified' that already made it. Uncle Bill a bachelor until 70 then got married. When he died he left everything to his wife and she got house clearance people from Birmingham to clear the house/everything went. Father peeved that family bible went but he wasn't bothered about the rest.
15.43	Connection with Brian Markham – described as cousins a couple of times removed. Brian's grandfather lived in Bedstone. He died young when around 29. Had a large family; his mother remarried and more children. Mary's great grandfather took on Brian's grandfather and a sister to live at Jubilee Works and trained him to be a carpenter. Brian's grandfather later set up a business in North Road as a carpenter.
17.21	Mary visiting the Jubilee Works was 7-10 years old. Her great Uncle Bill/Will had a nickname in the village – Little So Big – description of where nickname came from. More description of Jubilee Works at the time. Jubilee House had 4 poster beds; apprentices there. The current Markham's garage at that time was a laundry/wash house run by her great grandmother. She employed Kingsland women. Did all the laundry for Lucton school and others. Her father/grandfather told her that what she earned from the laundry/the profits paid to build the two Jubilee Cottages.
20.39	At time when visiting Jubilee House no mains water or sewerage in the village. Had a well; a scullery with a pump; a toilet with a cess pit; very nice garden; living room with a bench like pew at the dining table. Very nice sitting room and not sure but maybe a small grand piano in the sitting room. On outside wall was a pear tree growing along the wall. Says memories of Kingsland more vague than those of Wigmore where she spent more time staying with Grandfather.
22.37	Talking about grandfather being in WW1; joined up in Leominster. Has recollection of them living in Shirleath for a while before Wigmore where she stayed in school holidays. Recalls her grandmother walking down the road in Wigmore with a bucket to get water from the tap below the church.
23.54	Description of Great Uncle Bill also being a beekeeper at the Jubilee Works. Her father and her daughter are also beekeepers. Great uncle had bee skeps made from straw. Time was 1937/39, just before WW2. Father came back from WW1 [said WW2 but clarified later] and went to work for Great Uncle Bill at Jubilee works but a bit of animosity because he wouldn't pay her father any wages. Her father thought not fair he had to ask his father/her grandfather for money when working at Jubilee Works. Father got fed up and went to work on the railways in Wales [where Mary born]. Not sure where her grandfather was living at the time; possibly Shirleath but not sure.
27.19	Susan [her great Aunt] left Jubilee Cottages to her grandfather who left them to her father. Her mother sold No 1 Jubilee Cottages. Has few memories of Kingsland when young beyond visit to Jubilee Works. Knows there is a Jubilee wagon at Acton Scott farm [Shropshire]
29.35	Moved to Kingsland in 1964. Description of the village then. Had butchers; grocers shop; PO with little shop attached; bakery round; milk round; paper round. Coal yard. Both children and her grandson went to Kingsland School. Think her father and grandfather went to Kingsland School at some point. The Bell pub had recently closed but shop at side selling soft furnishings. [edit to remove phone]. Description of shopping in the village. The shop at Edgefield run by Mr Crag. Description of the shop inside. Bacon and cheese slicers. Sugar weighed in bags. Display windows with steps up. Bakery attached that did a bread delivery round in van. Bread sold in shop and delivered to houses every day. Description of Mitchells the butchers where she bought her meat [by Park House]. In grandfather's day was a slaughterhouse and abattoir in village but doesn't know where. Shoemaker also in grandfather's time.
34.32	Railway station there but had been closed by Dr Beeching before she arrived. The Corners Inn recalled as a little inn with a lean-to on the side where restaurant is. Serge Preece had a bicycle repair shop there. Serge Preece lived across the road from her in the council houses. At back of Corners where B&B rooms are now was a bowling alley. They didn't go to any of the pubs. Went to church, both daughters confirmed at Kingsland church, sister married there. In 60s Herbert Thomas was the rector; her children went to Sunday School with her brother's child. He was living with their parents in No 1 Jubilee Cottages.

37.29	Spent her time bringing up her children – going to library, swimming. Kingsland school always very good and grandson says lucky to go there too. Mr Lund was headmaster when her children were there in 1960s. When she retired helped with reading for around 5 years until 70. Teacher Sue Cole. Description of getting nits from doing it.
40.24	Kingsland Sawmills – description of leaving school, going to grammar school and doing shorthand and typing course. Started work at Sawmills and Anne Roberts was still there. She left though. Description of doing everything office related there. Jack Williams was the owner; also owned Teme Sawmills at Ludlow. Description of what it was like when she started there; busy because before Dutch Elm disease; stacked with coffin boards drying; cutting wedges for the railway; everything transported by road as railway gone. She was told that a huge slab of concrete at the top of the mill was where during WW1 was a ski lift type structure that went over fields towards Shobdon to bring timber down. Doesn't know if story true. Description of timber feller and Jack buying stands of timber then felled and brought in by lorries. Using band saws in the mill to make them into e.g. posts and rails for fencing; farm gates. Can't remember any stories.
45.21	Employed around 10 men and herself in the office. Jack had Harold Saunders as the manager. He left and went to work for the Duchy of Cornwall and Jack retired. He lived up North Road. His wife still alive but moved away, though still in touch. Cycled to and from work and less traffic than now. So little traffic on Lugg Green Road and her children played ball on the road. No Boarsfield estate then, only front facing houses. Her children called where Boarsfield is 'The Ring' and is where they played. She and children walked all over the place.
47.26	Description of going blackcurrant picking with her children in the summer in Shirlheath. Farm name can't remember, farmer was Mr McRae. All went on their bicycles. Earned enough to pay for her children's school uniforms. The blackcurrants went to the Ribena people. Her older daughter went to the grammar school in Leominster but then became Comprehensive and her younger daughter went to Wigmore. Didn't go hop picking. Would take their lunch and pick blackcurrants all day; children helped a bit, was a holiday for them. Money helped as husband a postman and didn't earn big wages. Husband was always based in Leominster PO. Used to go to school concerts, events, school fete. She often used to help with school trips when she was helping with reading in her 60s. Went to see The Borrowers at the Birmingham Hippodrome.
51.31	No memory of a Kingsland carnival. Description of no pavements on Lugg Green Road when she first moved here. Funny story about her small daughter walking into a pile of wet concrete on her way to Kingsland school that were there when pavements being put in around 1966.
54.14	Description of doctors. When arrived Dr Vaughan and description of going there. Then description of Dr Ovendon and surgery at the Stone House. Then new surgery built on Lugg Green Road. During her great grandfather's time Dr Bob Williams, 'Dr Bob' was at Croase House. Her grandmother [great grandmother?] worked for Dr Bob.
56.22	Description of history in Kingsland, the mounds and the Greens, indentations where moat was. Children had no restrictions and played where they wanted to. Wonderful place for children to live and grow up. Her children played on the Greens. Story of her younger daughter getting stuck on a log over a stream behind the church.
58.15	Description of the black and white cottage that used to be next to Jubilee Cottages, owned by John Price. Used to be a tied house for his workers. Back of the cottage was on the edge of the road, front of the cottage was at the back facing their garden [like the Poor House]. Had to go round to the back of the cottage to the front door. Was empty when they moved to Kingsland.
1.00.08	Description of her house when she moved to Kingsland. No sewerage or mains water. Description of how she got water. Had pump and earthenware sink at back. Bottom of garden was outside toilet with two openings. Has well at the back where her greenhouse now is. Description of good system where washing water from sink in kitchen went down garden, under the toilets into the cess pit. Quite hygienic. Before her time was a pigsty also where her shed is now. When they arrived a big chain on her shed where a dog was kept. Description of people keeping dogs outside in kennels. Got mains water and sewerage not long after she arrived.
1.03.29	Biggest changes seen in Kingsland – all the building going on. Taking all the green spaces. Used to walk up North Road past fields, before all houses/bungalows built. Most of the way to the chapel were not

	<p>many houses, green open spaces. More orchards also. Herefordshire was always an apple and cider county and were a lot more orchards everywhere. Fire Station was also down North Road, not sure where, was a big event for the schoolchildren when the fire engine came out. Would watch it going by. Before she worked at sawmills worked at school collecting dinner money and helping with children part time. When she first worked there the school had a lot more open space, more playground. Kingsland was quiet when first came here.</p>
1.05.50	<p>No favourite memory. Description of her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday party in her back garden which is a good memory. Description of her daughters having all their parties/children's parties at her house. Description of happy memories going to church with her children.</p>
1.10.20	<p>END</p>