

KINGSLAND ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewer: Tricia Carter

Interviewee: Valerie Mary Davis - Val

Nee. Crump

Age: 71

DOB: 24.06.1948

Date of interview: 06.02.2020

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH: Val was born in Kingsland at Rose Cottage (now know as Angel Cottage) in 1948. She later lived in Yew Trees, and the in The Bungalow at Bank Farm (now called Meadow View) She went to Kingsland School and shares many memories of her teachers at that time and of lessons, activities, sports and playtimes hiding in the dingle. She then attended the Grammar School at Leominster before attending the Technical College in Hereford. She grew up at Bank Farm, initially helping with the pigs and cows, then fruit picking and haymaking. The conversation includes early village memories of the bakehouse, Dr. Ovenden, the pubs, hairdressing salon, cycle shop, nursing home, saw mills and coal merchants. Favourite memories include the May fairs, summer fetes with country dancing, tennis tournaments, Fireman fun days, her Confirmation at Kingsland Church and Sunday School outings. Val has been involved in the Brownies since her daughter was 7 years of age and has just completed 30 years service! When first married Val and her husband Cliff lived in No.2, Pear Tree Cottages, Mousenatch Lane, then after a brief spell in Leominster moved to Nukalofa in December 1977

TIME CODED SUMMARY

TIME CODE	CONTENT
00:15	Val explaining that she was born in Kingsland at the Rose Cottage next to the Angel Inn, living there for 6 months before moving to Yew Trees, the house she actually lives opposite now! She moved up to The Bungalow at Bank Farm at 3 years old and remembers moving in there with all their belongings on a tractor and trailer driven by her Father. She and her friends played in the open fields and she had a very happy childhood there. She has lived in Kingsland all her life apart from two years in Leominster.
01:13	Her time at Kingsland Primary School. When the school days started and ended, the teachers and the structure of the days. She describes her class times in the two Miss Morgan's classes, Miss Holt's and Mrs Davies' class. One of her first memories is coming in after playtime in the afternoons and having a rest – the children had to fold their arms and put their heads down and rest for 10 minutes! Happy memories of playing hockey and rounders with the hard balls and playtime hiding from the Staff in the dingle. The Headmaster, Mr. Jones who was very keen on singing, would organise village concerts and performances were given in the Village Hall. Memories of walking down to the school from The Bungalow at Bank Farm, playing on the roads coming back at night.
05:34	Taking the 11+ and going to the Grammar School in Leominster. How she used to travel into Leominster, cycling down from the farm and leaving her bike at the butchers shop at the end of The Corners Inn before getting the bus from outside The Corners Inn. Moving on to attend Technical College in Hereford and gaining a National Diploma in Business Studies and Shorthand & Typing. Coming home from the College in the dark, over the bridge and old millstream into Bank Farm.

09.01	General childhood memories helping out on the farm. Kept pigs and cows and her Father had a milk round, around the time of the hard snow of 1963. Used to deliver milk on a tractor and trailer into Leominster. Had a herd of Jersey cows, so they bottled and sold the milk. After the cows caught a disease the milk had to be pasteurised and her Father had to sell the cows and they bought the milk from Bartonsham Farm Dairies, who still deliver milk to Kingsland today. Also fruit picking on the farm – bramleys, perry pears and damsons. If Dad was feeling generous, the children would get paid a little bit for each bag. Cutting the hay with a scythe before they had machinery to help, and general farming activities.
13.01	Playtime as a child. Big shed for their Nature Club. Lots of tennis, rounders, cricket and football. Naughty playtime when they took out the electric wires and cut the village off! Walks and primrose picking. Toffee apples. Makeshift BBQ cooking sausages for lunch. Lots of time outside. Played at the bridge which was a meeting place for everyone. Swimming in the river.
16.02	Family generations and farming in Kingsland. Some of the farm now sold off. Family still retains the 8 acres and orchards and has developed the farm buildings. Family go back to Great, Great Grandparents in Kingsland. Family, Stephens and Crump, has attended Kingsland and Lucton Schools and lived in The Bell and Green Park. Time with no electricity, using lanterns to cross from the Bungalow to Bank Farm. Water from a hand pump via the well.
19.25	Getting around. Walked or cycled mainly. Father used to ride a bike and put Val in his shirt! Had a van to take things to market. Used the buses too. Friday was shopping day in Leominster. Grocery order would be given to the shops who would then box it up and deliver it to where you caught the bus to go home.
21.38	More memories of living at home. Big pond – ice skating in Winter when the pond froze over. Used to have duck shooting too. Also had the Millstream and fished for eels.
22.39	After College, worked at Midland Bank in Hereford for about 18 months. Then helped at home with the milk round – passed her driving test to do so. Also helped with the business side. After marrying, worked in the Health Dept. at Hereford, then Social Services in Leominster. Gave up work when she started a family.
24.14	Cliff and courting. Knew him from Church Choir. Cliff was actually a friend of her Father. Married in 1972 in Kingsland Church. Starting her family in 1979 (had a daughter Karen and then a son Jonathan 5 years later) and helping to set up the Nursery at Kingsland School with Sarah Somers. Mr. Chappel, the Head Teacher at the time, gave permission for the old kitchen to be done up as a Nursery. Then moved on to work at Shobdon School where she eventually became the School Business Manager, helped Mrs. Berry with the sports, and worked there until she retired.
26.47	Memories of the village – businesses, shops and leisure places. The Doctors Surgery being at Red House with Dr. Vaughan and later on, moving to Stone House where Dr. Ovenden lived. Finally the new Surgery opening in 1990. Val was involved in helping to make the Reception an inviting place, and fundraising for a Defibrillator with the Friends of the Medical Practice Committee and she has been a Trustee ever since. She remembers the bakehouse, the butchery, the 4 pubs – The Monument, The Angel Inn, The Red Lion and The Corners. Sonia Priday living at The Corners when Val was at Grammar School and building a hairdressing salon there. The post office, nursing home which is where the Wardens is, cycle shop, sawmills and coal merchants. Some of her ancestors, including Aunty Lil, living in The Bell House. Percy Edwards also lived there as a Caretaker/Carpenter and also doubled up as the village Barber. WI holding Committee Meetings in the front room.

31.20	Biggest changes during her time in Kingsland. New properties going up and where all the development has happened – Church Green, St. Michael’s Close, extension at Boarsfield, Highfield Close, Tudor Close and the bungalows and houses being built up North Road. Also much more traffic.
32.18	<p>Favourite memories of Kingsland, including the May Fair on the green. Country dancing and summer fetes and the tennis tournaments organised by Jenny Kelly. The Firemans Fun Day raising funds for the Fire Benevolent Fund.</p> <p>Memories of her Father being in the Fire Brigade and having a bell in the house, waking them up at night if he had a call.</p> <p>Her Confirmation and going to Angel House where the Hamlin-Williams lived to get dressed in their white veils. Starting Sunday School at 3 years of age and the Sunday School outings to Wales – filling up at Markhams Garage before the journey!</p> <p>Her daughter joining the Brownies at 7 and getting involved in helping out, finally getting trained to be a Leader and enjoying 30 years of service.</p>
38.04	END