

## KINGSLAND ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewer: Tricia Carter

Interviewee: Robin East

Age: 80    DOB: 09.06.1940

Date of interview: 02.03.2020

### SUMMARY PARAGRAPH:

Robin was born in Brick House in Kingsland in 1940. His Grandparents lived in Longford Cottage opposite Brick House. He went to Kingsland School until the age of 11, before gaining a scholarship to attend Lucton School. He shares memories of his passion for all sports and spending his time at Kingsland Train Station and swimming in the River Lugg. He talks of his love of rugby and his long involvement in the Luctonian Rugby Club. His family have lived in Longford, Brick House and The Rosary in Kingsland village. He remembers Kingsland Carnival and the May Fairs. Although he moved out to Leominster many years ago, he is still very involved in the village through the rugby club and takes a keen interest in the development of the village.

### TIME CODED SUMMARY

TIME CODE	CONTENT
00.13	Robin was born at Brick House in Kingsland in the summer of 1940. His Grandmother (Mrs Reynolds) lived at Longford Cottages, one of the oldest cottages in Kingsland, circa late 16 <sup>th</sup> century. His first memory is re-lived when he fell out of the attic window of Brick House resulting in 3 months hospitalisation in Oswestry after breaking a leg and fracturing his skull.
00.16	Attended Kingsland School until the age of 11, then won a Pierrepont Scholarship to Lucton School. Remembers the two Miss Morgan's at Kingsland School and Charlie Jones, the Headmaster. At Lucton School for 7 years, getting involved in lots of sports rather than academia! Travelled to school by bike. Walked over fields (Tars Wood and Fowden) when it snowed. Memories of how frugal school was and memories of school friends – Bryan Markham, Cliff Davis and others. Remembers the rivalry between Lucton School and the Grammar School.
05.20	Left school at 18. Did a post round covering for Reg Summers who was ill. Then worked at an electrical company and remembers many houses not having electricity. Moved away, but came back. Got involved in all the sports which kept him involved in the village and therefore he stayed in Kingsland.
06.48	Explanation of previous family generations – the Perks' and Reynolds. Robin's Grandmother married Fred Charles Reynolds and they had 2 daughters, one being Robin's Mother. Family members resided at Longford Cottages, Stone House and Brick House. Grandfather was a local pig killer after the war from 1945 onwards, but was also a baker, working for Cloney Howard in a café which is now the Central Bakery in Leominster.

10.15	Father played football and instilled a love of sport in Robin. Sport played a big part in his family life. Remembers days out in Markhams bus and late night returns afterwards as the local football team used to get changed in the pubs when playing away! Later on, Robin converted to playing rugby and got involved in the Luctonian Rugby Club. He has helped around the ground and has been on the Committee for many years, and in 1983 was awarded Life Membership along with Richard Hall.
13.30	Recalls more childhood memories. Best friend was Michael Vaughan, the son of Dr. Vaughan. Played cricket and tennis together, along with Bryan Markham.
14.45	Remembers how the Old Luctonians were formed down by the River Lugg. Used to play behind The Angel in those days. Changed the name in the 1970's in order to get a grant.
16.13	Village memories. The main shop was opposite Bryan Markham's. The Brindleys who lived at The Rosary had it before it eventually closed down, and re-opened opposite with the Post Office. Remembers the sweet shop at Cobnash. There were 2 butchers – Mitchells and Frank Durdell at The Corners, before it moved to Park House. Also Lewis Davis at Shirlheath. 4 pubs – The Monument, Red Lion, Corners and The Angel. Also mentions The Bell.
20.10	Talks about Kingsland Train Station and tells stories of the shunting of the engines and the eventual end of the train service from Kingsland. Recalls swimming in the Lugg (see photograph) and Ali Davis putting the diving board up.
22.37	His family lived in Brick House until 1960 which they rented. Then moved to The Rosary next door. Mother ran a guest house from Brick House after the war. Polly Miles and Topsy Bubb also did the same. Remembers Stone House being a guest house. Left Kingsland in 1969, moving to Leominster after he married.
26.15	Kingsland Carnival was a highlight in the year in August when bank holiday Monday was the first Monday of August. May Fairs – a family used to come with swing boats and stalls and it was held where The Rectory is now.
28.30	Continued involvement in Kingsland. Main changes have been the newcomers, the new houses in North Road and all the infills, plus outsiders wanting to change the image of the village.
31.15	Robin was involved in the Church choir as a choir boy and the bell ringing until his mid teens. Attended Sunday School led by Dennis Weaver from Cobnash.
32.40	Conclusion and thanks. Final comments regarding childhood memories.
34.26	END