

## KINGSLAND ORAL HISTORY PROJECT – INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Interviewer: Jackie Markham

Interviewee: John Chamberlain

Age: 82

DOB: 18.4.1940

Date of interview: 12.11.22

John Chamberlain lived in Myrtle House, Lugg Lane, Kingsland until 1957/8. He was born at a time when Myrtle House was lit by oil/paraffin lamps, water was pumped by hand from a well in the garden, the toilet was outside, food was cooked on a range fuelled by wood and coal and logs were sawn with a two handled saw. All these jobs John learned to do as he was growing up as his grandfather became blind. John helped his relatives at Moor House Farm, sang in Kingsland Church choir and became a server. He remembers winters of snow and the arrival of electricity in the village, the presence of American soldiers during the war years and he attended Kingsland School and then Lucton School. Although brought up by his maternal grandparents and Aunt Gwen Chamberlain he kept in close touch with his mother, leaving Kingsland aged 17 to live with her and his step family.

### TIME CODED SUMMARY

TIME CODE	CONTENT
0.06	Introduction of John Neville Chamberlain. Born in Myrtle House in Kingsland on 18/04/1940. Lived in Myrtle Cottage with Grandparents until the age of 17.
0.31	First memory as a 1 year old. Restless child. Ears pinned back by tape - family tradition!
1.28	4 years old. Friends with Jennifer Preece. Starting school in Easter term of 1944. Memories of new school uniform, walking to school and making new friends.
2.46	Remembers 2 teachers in particular - Mrs. Morgan and another teacher, possibly a sister or relative. C.T. Jones (Charlie) - Headmaster
4.02	Church choir and music. Choir boy at 5/6 years of age until voice broke. Vicar Rev. Jobling. Altar server. Helping at Weddings and Funerals. Bell ringing. Picking flowers at Oaker Wood for Church decorations.
8.47	Other relatives. History of Chamberlain family going back to 1600's.
9.25	Life on Moor House Farm - milking cows, ploughing fields, farm producing fowl for Christmas as well as crops.
11.50	Food rationing during the war. Bartering in the village for different foods.
13.03	Aunt (Alice Chamberlain) known as Nellie, married Alfred Karlsson from Sweden. Aunt Gwen's life in ATS, illness and dying young in 1944 at the age of 21. Aunt Gwen's war medal.
18.43	Army truck outside Corners Inn - offered fruit and chocolate by soldiers. First time seeing a banana and not knowing what to do with it.
1.03	Facilities in Myrtle House. Electricity and the first street lamp at entrance to Boarsfield.
22.34	Lucton School after passing entrance exam and gaining a scholarship. Travelling to school with Robin East and Bryan Markham. Enjoying sport.
25.37	CCF. Visit to Norfolk. Military camp.
28.13	Entertainment and Youth Club. Easter parades and activities.
30.48	Trips with Markhams buses - Kingsland to Aberystwyth. Maurice Markham taking children sledging tied to back of his car.
33.26	Cottages at Lugg Green. 1947, dam burst upstream from River Lugg. Floods to first floor. Rescue of clothing and move to Hostel.
36.33	Mother meeting Step-Father and move to Halifax. Annual visits to Kingsland from Yorkshire. Staying in B&B at Stone House.
41.30	Clarification of family names.
42.27	3 seater toilet at Moor Farm
44.00	Summary and impact of growing up in Kingsland, including local policeman, TV and telephone