

Liz Priston – Interview Notes

Interview date: 6th August 2005 Interviewer: Sonya Teale
Location: Interview no: ST-14

Elizabeth Priston (nee Bert) dob 9 Mar 1941.

0015 Family history details - grandparents and parents lived in the village.

02:25 Liz remembers being taken to Barratt's garage by grandmother to exchange old batteries for charged ones.

02:46 Wartime memories of soldiers on and around the golf links and remembers bombs missing Castle Rd and landing on golf course. Remembers also being pushed up to see the king reviewing the troops before D-Day.

04:00 Liz relates anecdote of soldiers teasing her.

04:25 School – Liz's two brothers went to St John's school and Liz went to Havant, they all finally went to Warblington together. Liz's mother worked as a dinner lady at St Johns. Liz recalls the children's fairs on Stubbington's field behind the old School and doing maypole dancing.

05:20 Liz went to Havant Junior School and then Havant Secondary school on the bus which was more frequent then and went to Southsea. They went to Warblington on the train, changing at Havant.

06:00 Liz's mother was a very good seamstress who and did work for another seamstress who lived

Describes errands etc carried out when she was 10-11 yrs old:

Collecting milk in churn from Links Lane dairy. Post Office. Drug store. Bakers (Ryan's) where the estate agents is now. Grocers/Butchers. Opposite was a very little shop owned by her g. grandfather which sold Vegetables. SPAR supermarket.

07:28 For pocket money, Liz and both brothers did paper rounds for Wally Francis newsagent in Redhill Rd.

07:53 Guides – Liz was one of four members of the first guide group in the village, located opposite Beechwood House. Guide captain was Mrs Woodland and one of the other guides was Jean Mullery (married name). Remained Guide for a long time then became a Sea Ranger in Emsworth.

08:55 Wanted to be a naval nurse when she left school but couldn't for health reasons but instead worked for Sir Dymoke-White who lived near what is now BUPA hospital. She worked in the garden there for many years and was able to ride the hunters. Sir D-W also had a coach and four and Liz developed a love of horses.

Rivalry at coach rallies between Sir B-W and another landowner over the hill. She relates her recollections of looking after horses and learning to ride.

12:00 Left Sir D-W and started at Plessey's at New lane making loudspeakers then when she was married, left Rowlands Castle for four years and moved to Portsmouth to work at Marconi for 22 years.

13:00 Mother lived in 29 Castle rd after her grandmother left due to ill health.

13:55 In her teens she became Sunday school teacher at St John's. Went to school with second husband and didn't know it.

15:35 Marconi – Projects - Skynet project – Sea Dart – Mk 24 torpedo. She was made redundant after 22 years when the company moved.

- 17:05 Current job totally different.
- 17:45 Needlework – learned from grandmother. Passionate about needlework and silk painting. She did C&G and other courses in dressmaking.
- 22:24 She became a member of WI and won prizes in competitions. She worked on the Millennium wall-hanging with amongst others, Vera Whitlock.
- 24:25 There was a fair in September for many years in Castle Rd where bungalows are.
- 24:49 Dances were held in St John's Old church hall in. Discos held in upstairs room in Robin Hood (was Railway at the time) had to stop – floor wasn't safe.
- 25:25 Growing family, Father at sea – moved from grandmother's house and rented v small bungalow in field where fair came. Had to move from there to front half of the Old Rectory (B2149) – gas mantles. Clearance of land took place behind the rectory when Leigh Park Estate was sold for development. Loggers – Charcoal Burners. Watercourse in woods.
- 27:47 Shooting – First husband friendly with Stansted game keeper –Mr Buckle.
- 28:25 Liz & 2nd husband are members of the International Tree Foundation and plant trees when permitted eg along Hayling Billy Line and in parks.