

## **Julie Hirst - Transcription**

*Audio Quality - a lot of background/café noise throughout*

**0:00:00**

**JH:** It's noisy in here, isn't it?

**LMI:** No, it is. It is. Well, let's see how we get on. Right, I'm interviewing Julie here. Give us your full name, Julie.

**JH:** It's Julie Hirst.

**LMI:** Great, and tell us what you're... Why are we interviewing you, Julie?

**JH:** Why are we... Oh, because of my background from working in John Peel's mill.

**LMI:** Where's that?

**0:00:24**

**JH:** That's in the centre of Baildon. It's no longer a mill, but they're making it into apartments now.

**LMI:** Oh are they? Oh that's interesting. Yeah. And so when did you start there? How old were you?

**JH:** I was, first of all I went to a shop in Baildon which was like general stuff, like tools on one side and furniture and...I can't remember what they're called.

**LMI:** Hardware.

**JH:** Hardware shop, yes.

**LMI:** Was that when you left school?

**JH:** Yes. I worked there from 15 and a half, just for six months, and then I got a job at Peter Black's, the slipper makers in Shipley.

**0:01:03**

**LMI:** Yeah, I remember that.

**JH:** And I worked there for a year. And then I... My mum worked at John Peel's Mill in Baildon, so I got a job working with her.

**LMI:** So you were about 17 or something then?

**JH:** Yes, yeah, 16 half, 17, yeah. I worked there for five years, but I got married and moved away up to Wrose, so that... it was a bit far for me to travel, because at the time I lived at top of Baildon in Brancliffe Drive.

**0:01:38**

**LMI:** So what did you do in the mill, what was your first job?

**JH:** Well, I can remember as kids when my mum worked there, we used to go and meet her after we finished school, because my mum worked there a lot of years. And we used to, these big bags of... like bales and stuff, and we used to sit in the corridor on the steps waiting for her, and then obviously later on I got a job there. But it was, well, there were sifters which were up on stilts, and you had to climb up and push the product into a hole where it was filtered.

**LMI:** So what kind of mill was it?

**JH:** It was, you know the flock wallpaper?

**LMI:** Yes.

**JH:** We made the, we chopped the raw material into small pieces, right, fragment pieces, that they used. So when they left us, they went in bags to be dyed and then used in the wallpaper business, and various things like that.

**0:02:40**

**LMI:** So was that wool, or was it artificial fibre or what?

**JH:** I can't remember exactly. I think it was rayon or something like that. We did get proper wool, depending on the buyer who was buying it, I think. So, like, the general flock wallpaper for anybody to buy was the cheap range. But then we used to do batches of really good quality stuff that went off to a different area to be dyed, and obviously used in high class places.

**LMI:** Posh wallpaper?

**JH:** Posh wallpaper, yeah.

**0:03:24**

**LMI:** Houses of Parliament wallpaper?

**JH:** Probably.

**LMI2:** Boris Johnson's residence!

**JH:** So when I first started I was shadowing someone who'd been there for years. And so there was chopping machines, which were like mini guillotines. You had to be really careful.

Because if the stuff came out of the side, you had to feed it back down. It wouldn't be allowed these days. Because they didn't have any guards on, so you could easily take your finger end off on that.

**0:03:59**

**LMI:** Did that happen to anybody?

**JH:** I think it happened to one or two, yeah, because there were a lot of oldies that worked there, so their eyesight weren't as good. But there were machines like that, that chopped it, and it was regulated for different thicknesses and sizes. Obviously, there was a manager that used to alter the... he had a team that... like, men that maintained them, bit like engineering types.

**LMI:** Technicians?

**JH:** Yeah, they weren't engineers though, you know, they were just people brought up with it and taught it and learnt it on the... you know. And like I said about the sifters. They were high up things. You were a good, I would say six foot off the ground. And you used to have to sift it in, and it went round on big rollers. And then it came out of the bottom into... you know, like they use for moving, you know the boxes that...

**LMI:** Oh, tea chests,

**JH:** Tea chests. Like tea chests and they were put into them with bags in them. And then, when they were... because we had to go down now and again and push them down, but that tended to be that there were two of the chopping machines next to these two sifters, and the person doing the machines generally looked after the... you know, the underneath, and then put one to be filtered onto a little, like, lift that went up and then you pulled them on.

**0:05:48**

**LMI:** And how many people worked there?

**JH:** Er...

**LMI:** Was it big?

**JH:** No. No, because we were on... we were on the top floor. When I worked there, we were on the top floor. But as far as I know, there used to be all other levels to it at the time. We had a man that used to sharpen the blades, and he was a Polish man, and he always had a raw onion to eat. Yeah, he'd peel his onion and he'd be munching on it like he'd be munching an apple. It was really strange, you know, because I was from Scotland. But he was in a little cabin at the back on his own, you know, sharpening the blades, and doing any welding that needed to do.

**0:06:36**

**JH:** So when I started, I was chaperon.... Somebody was chaperoning me once I got... knowing how to do it. And so, these rayons came in big bales, and we had to spin them into 'tops', what we call 'tops'. And it was basically getting, there'd be about six or eight bags, and you had to get a strand of each... probably about that big, and you'd work the whole lot from these bags and then build them into a top, which would be something like seven feet tall when you finished. How the hell we reached up to them, I've no idea. But we managed it. You know, we were throwing them on eventually, you know. And you'd have about eight... two rows of about four, and they all fed into these machines.

**LMI:** What, the guillotines?

**JH:** The guillotine ones, where they worked at really fast speeds. And you had to keep them clear. And when you... you used to get a shovel full of the chopped stuff and put it on like a little, you know, like you've got your sink? And your drainer?

**LMI:** Yeah.

**JH:** It had like a bit of a drainer, and you had to pull the stuff to one side, and put this loose stuff at the bottom. Because it worked like moving it in, you know, feeding it through.

**0:08:03**

**LMI:** Oh, I see.

**JH:** Yeah. So, and then you'd go to the front and make sure it was chopping right. And if it was coming out the sides, you had to somehow feed it down. If it were really bad...

**LMI:** And that's when your fingers might get chopped off?

**JH:** Oh yes. So, when it was really bad, sometimes you'd stop the machine to realign it, and bring it down. I was always frightened of getting my finger chopped off, so I'd stop it.

**LMI:** Was it piecework or was it...?

**JH:** No it wasn't piecework, no you got paid a wage.

**LMI:** Oh right, so you didn't have to kind of keep going regardless.

**0:08:36**

**JH:** No, no, it was a set wage. I think I was on... I think it was about £39 a month. But we were paid weekly back, so I can't remember exactly. But no, it was about £35.

**LMI:** About £8 or £9 a week?

**JH:** Yeah, I think so.

**LMI:** What year was that?

**JH:** Right, I've got to work out. About 1972. I got married in 1978, so I worked there 5 years, so it must have been '72, '73.

**LMI:** And what was it like with everybody else? I mean you were the new girl on the floor. What was that like when you started?

**0:09:24**

**JH:** Well, there happened to be, there were a couple of lads in from college doing like, between work.

**LMI:** Work placement?

**JH:** Yeah, yeah, till they went to college for summer break, you know what I mean? They'd help the men in the back doing the, you know, the... because we'd have a crane outside that lifted the rayon. And it had to be hooked and brought in. So the lads used to hang around with Jeff Tattersall... not Jeff Tattersall, Jeff Clark. who was the man that maintained the machines and everything. The Tattersall family, it was... Jeff Tattersall was the son of the... I think they were partners. I can't remember what they called the other one, but... I know one of the partners was Tattersall and the other one left. Erm... I can't remember his name. Jeff was the son. But there was the dad that was one of the partners.

**0:10:18**

**LMI:** Was the whole mill making stuff for flock wallpaper?

**JH:** It was us up top.

**LMI:** Just the top of it?

**JH:** It was us up top when I worked there.

**LMI:** And then there were other things going on in other parts of the building?

**JH:** Yeah, well, as you went in the door, there was two sifters on the right-hand side. Then there were two guillotine ones facing the doorway. Then you went down a bit further and there were two guillotines facing the other way. And two lots of sifters on the sides, next to them machines. And then through the back, there was a back bit, and there was another two machines and two sifters in there.

**0:11:20**

**LMI:** That was all on the top floor?

**JH:** That was all on the top floor, yeah.

**LMI:** What was on the other floors?

**JH:** I think that we used the storage for the bales.

**LMI:** Oh, I see.

**JH:** You see, so the blokes... when we needed new bales to do, or we needed a new line to do, because that's what it was. Each floor, where they were, they were for certain customers, see. So it all goes to the same place.

**LMI:** So, all those restaurants in the 1970s with flock wallpaper?

**JH:** Yes, yes.

**LMI:** It came from here?

**JH:** Well, I don't know if... there must have been other places in the country that did it, but I know we did it.

**0:12:02**

**LMI:** Oh, well, next time I go in a restaurant that's got flock wallpaper I'll assume it's some of yours.

**JH:** I don't know if you can... I don't know if there'd be any of those about at all.

**LMI:** It was very popular, wasn't it?

**JH:** It was, it was, yeah. In pubs especially.

**LMI:** Yeah, that's right. So was there any kind of sense of community? Was everybody local?

**JH:** Well, we all lived at, most of us lived at the top of Baildon. But there were families that lived in Wrose. And I think some lived in Idle, and Shipley. The boys, you know, mainly. But the majority of people lived in Baildon.

**LMI:** And did you socialise together? Did you do anything?

**0:12:49**

**JH:** We had Christmas parties, yes.

**LMI:** Lots of people have mentioned the Christmas parties.

**JH:** Yeah, well a couple of times we went to a hotel in Cleckheaton. I can't remember what the name is. But funnily enough, years later, my son and his wife got married, and we paid for the wedding reception and everything there.

**LMI:** Same hotel?

**JH:** Same hotel, yeah, it was really weird. But we used to get a coach from Baildon, which the management set on. And that's what happened.

**LMI:** They paid for it all?

**0:13:22**

**JH:** Yeah. We all used to meet downstairs. We had a canteen and a kitchen. And a staff room at side, which big table, and all oldies sat round the table. And us younger ones used to sit on big pipes that were in the locker area, you know, waiting.

**LMI:** Somebody told me yesterday about sitting on the floor and eating their lunch.

**JH:** Well, we had a canteen, we were a bit more civilised. But on a Saturday, for my pains, I had to go to the Co-op and get the currant teacakes...the current longbuns for breakfast.

**LMI:** I remember long buns. I remember long buns.

**JH:** I used to sit there waiting for the bakery van to come. But then breakfast was at half past nine, so I had to be down there at nine o'clock and buy them all. And I went back and toasted them when they came down, ready to order them.

**0:14:29**

**JH:** And then during summer, the management paid for me to go to Barracloughs on Westgate. Do you remember Barracloughs? The pop man? To get some cordials for us to have drinks during summer when it was really hot. 'Cos it was like an oven up there. With the rayon and everything, and all that you know. We had windows but...

**LMI:** And what about, I mean that sounds like a lot of fibres, chopping up.

**JH:** Yes, well, yes, they did get in strange places! To be perfectly frank, I had to get the tweezers out sometimes on a night! They were like splinters, you know. But yeah, they stuck to your clothes and everything, you know, your clothes felt like...

**LMI:** Did you have masks?

**JH:** No, no. But I've never heard of anybody working there that have died through inhalation of that product. And I'm still here. Yeah, I'm a asthmatic but that's through nothing to do with that. I was asthmatic before I started at Peel's. But no, no, I've never heard of anybody having any illnesses because of the stuff... products that were chopped. And yes, it did fly about, it was unbelievable.

**0:15:57**

**LMI:** You talked about the management and the owners. What were they like as bosses?

**JH:** They used to wear the white coats, you know, the full long white coats, when they come upstairs. Like I say, Jeff Tattersall was, he was like in between college, but obviously he was going to step into his dad's... I wish I could remember the manager's name. My mum was keen on the, she was rather smitten by the... Tattersall Senior. Yes, she had her moments

with him, yes! Fluttering her eyelids and stuff at him when he came up. But yeah, they came up to see us every day and talked to us, asked us how we were doing, and things like that. But it tended to be the same people that spoke to us, see how things were going and that.

**0:17:04**

**LMI:** So the 1970s was also a time of terrible inflation, wasn't it? So did your wages kind of go up or did you kind of...

**JH:** No.

**LMI:** Was there a trade union or anything like that?

**JH:** No, no. It was just like a family run business and you were part of the family. Do you know what I mean? And I mean, at that age I wasn't even thinking about... I mean I used to get my wage on a Friday with one hand and give my mum my board money in the other hand. I think I got about £7ish... £6 or £7. And my mum would give me £2 and keep rest.

**LMI:** So, you had £2 to spend during the week?

**JH:** But then I started doing my own laundry and stuff like that and buying me toiletries. So it didn't go far. And I used to go to Mecca a couple of times a week, with my friends.

**0:17:58**

**LMI:** Oh, Mecca. Yeah, yeah. I didn't go there then; I went there much later.

**JH:** Yeah, well when I was 15, me and my friends started going on a Tuesday. And it was 12s to 15s, [years] but we felt too old for it. So we started going on a Thursday where it was 18s only. But we got away with it.

**LMI:** And you were 15, were you?

**0:18:28**

**JH:** 16 at the time, yeah. And then we started going on a Saturday. So, we went originally Tuesdays, stopped going there, and then went on a Thursday and Saturday. Good time, we enjoyed dancing.

**LMI:** So did your two pounds last a whole week, or did you run out?

**JH:** Majority of the time, yeah. I bought... soon as I started buying some clothes my mum ruined [them], going through mangle, you know. I'd buy a blouse, a little jumper, acrylic jumper, and it was like this, and when it come out of mangle it was like that. So, you know it ruined it, so I started doing my own laundry.

**LMI:** And so, did your dad work in the mill as well?



**0:19:21**

**JH:** He worked at Airedale, a combing company, down at the end of Green Lane. When we lived down that area. And then he started doing a lot of driving jobs. So he was doing deliveries. But he used to keep us off school. Now I loved school. I was unusual, I loved school. But I didn't want to go [on delivery?] but because I were young, they wouldn't leave me at home, to come home on my own and stuff like that. So I'd be in the back of this delivery van, going to the seaside. 'Come on, we're going to the seaside.' But it turned around and come straight back! We never even saw any of the seaside! And I've always been a bad traveller. So I were always sick! So it wasn't a good time for it.

**0:20:01**

**LMI:** So the other thing that was happening then were Wakes Weeks. Did you have Wakes Weeks in the mill? Or did everybody have different holidays? You know, when everybody took... when the whole of Bradford virtually shut down.

**JH:** Yeah, we closed last week in July, first week in August. And all the usual set ones, the Maybank, Spring Bank, we closed then. We closed for a fortnight. But I don't know if we got paid, I don't remember that bit. We must have got something if it were a... yeah.

**LMI:** Yeah, I think it must have been paid for your holidays.

**JH:** Yeah, yeah. But when we were kids, like I say, we lived on Fernbank Street.

**LMI:** Oh, right.

**JH:** And opposite was the barracks, that's there now. But when we lived down there...

**0:20:52**

**LMI:** In Baildon?

**JH:** Yeah.

**LMI:** Barracks in Baildon?

**JH:** Yeah, on Green Lane. It's leisure centre now. But it used to be an army barracks when we lived down there. And we used to go down as kids and play. I've climbed over many a tank and I got in back of one of them army big things, transporting army men around. Because we lived down there you see, all the terraced houses, they were back-to-back terrace, outside loo. And we'd have an attic, one bedroom, a lounge, where we had to get the tin bath in front of fire.

**0:21:37**

**LMI:** So you were still bathing in a tin bath when you were a kid?

**JH:** Oh yeah, up to being 8 [years old] and then we moved to top of Baildon. Because they wanted to knock all of them down, with them being, you know, no facilities. We used to have a...my dad used to put a bucket in the wardrobe as an indoor toilet for us at night. Oh yeah. And the cellar top, it's just a little square, probably as big as this area here, and that was kitchen and cooking and everything. And then we had a cellar. My dad used to get his bath in the cellar. But, er, we used to get it in front of fire.

**0:22:20**

**LMI:** So, when you moved up to the top of Baildon, did it feel like luxury?

**JH:** Oh yeah, because I've got a bedroom of my own! I didn't have to share with anybody. Because I was the girl, and two lads had... 'cos it was a three bedroomed house. It were a council house, so they moved us up there. And I think my dad got paid £200 for the house at the time. I don't think... I think it cost them about £700 to buy in them days.

**LMI:** Was it knocked down afterwards?

**JH:** It was knocked down. Have you not been down that area?

**LMI:** Which, which? Explain to me where it is.

**0:23:01**

**JH:** Right, come out of here, turn left, and at the end of Green Lane turn left again.

**LMI:** Oh, okay, yeah.

**JH:** There's a shop there which was a greengrocers when we were kids. I don't know if you've seen the pictures of that area.

**LMI:** No, I'll have to look.

**JH:** I could probably...

**LMI:** I'll look in a minute.

**JH:** Yeah, yeah. But there's quite a few on the Baildon [web]site showing Green Lane, and the streets. So there were loads of streets. There'd be Nelson Street, there was Fernbank Street, where we lived. And they were all sort of like terraced, but then there's one house on the end, and they had a bigger garden and that.

**0:23:37**

**LMI:** I think... when I lived in Bingley, when I was a student, we lived in the back-to-back that was just like that, we had no toilet, it was up the street.

**JH:** They were deemed unfit for...

**LMI:** And they knocked it down.

**JH:** Yeah, they knocked it down. They were going to do something with it, but it's been like that since they knocked it down.

**LMI:** So when you left school, you left school at what, 15 or 16?

**JH:** 15 and a half. Well, because...

**LMI:** Did you want to leave school?

**JH:** No. No, but I found out in later life that I was slightly dyslexic. I had no problems. I was having A+, for history, B+, for French, and all these sort of stuff, but I was always low in English. You know, they give you books to read. I still to this day struggle reading a book. It takes me forever. But I found a way of doing it through my grandchild.

**0:24:30**

**LMI:** Oh right.

**JH:** Because she's a bit similar, and they have those colour cards. You know, like the...

**LMI2:** Colour filters. They're called colour filters.

**JH:** They're like a card of colour, a see-through, and if you put it over writing, different colours.

**0:24:57**

**JH:** She works with blue. Well, I got some. I bought some from Amazon. And I tried all these different colours. And the yellow one was the best one for me. So, when I went on holiday, I was able to read Anne Frank's Diary... book. Because I could see it properly and I could take it in.

**LMI:** That's interesting.

**JH:** Ah, it, it, I just, but the thing is, you see, it wasn't known in them days.

**LMI:** So you left school and did you assume that you were going to go and work in the mill?

**JH:** Well, no, erm, when I was 12, my mum got pregnant, and she had my brother. And being the girl and my dad being Victorian, I had to look after him. So, my mum met me at school

-she cleaned the school I was at - and I had to bring Philip home, and of course I had to look after him all the time.

**0:25:48**

**JH:** She didn't get home till nine. I got behind on my homework, so I started missing school because I was behind. And I got more and more behind. And I ended up having to leave because I just got so behind at school. So, I'd gone from really good grades at 11/12 [years] to... I might as well leave because I'm not going to go anywhere.

**LMI:** People don't realize that kind of story, do they?

**JH:** No.

**LMI:** What school were you at?

**JH:** First of all I was Fernihurst until... that was until we moved to top of Baildon. Then I went to Baildon Church School, which was in the old building next to the church. And then [they] built Jenny Lane, opposite where the playground is. They built that, I went there, and then went to West Lane Secondary School.

**0:26:44**

**LMI:** West Lane, where's that?

**JH:** It's right on the top of... it's called Belmont now.

**LMI:** Oh right, okay.

**JH:** So it was called West Lane Secondary School. Yeah.

**LMI:** And it's still there?

**JH:** It's still there, yeah. But it's changed a bit. More buildings and that. But it's based on younger ones.

**LMI:** Oh, okay.

**0:27:06**

**JH:** You know, it went... and I went on the Thornes scheme. Have you ever heard of the Thornes scheme?

**LMI:** No.

**JH:** Right, because I was at, when I was at school, at junior school, they couldn't decide whether I was good enough to go to Salts, or not good enough and to go to West Lane.

**LMI:** Because it was a grammar school.

**JH:** Yeah, it was a grammar school. So I went to Thorne's Scheme, and I did very, very well. So I was offered the chance of either going to Salts, or going to West Lane. My brother were at West Lane, so I decided I wanted to go to West Lane. And it was nearer. And I went into the B form. At that time there was the A, B, D, C forms. C, D form, you know, I said it the wrong way round.

**0:27:55**

**JH:** And I were in the B form. Slightly too... not good enough to go into the A form, so I went into B form.

**LMI:** You were pretty good though.

**JH:** Yeah, I like to think so, but then along came my brother and...

**LMI:** And then you ended up...

**JH:** Yeah, that's a real pain in my backside as well.

**LMI:** Yeah, I can imagine.

**JH:** I loved school. How many kids will say they love school? I did.

**LMI:** That's true, right.

**JH:** I did. I did well in needlework and all this sort of stuff, but once I had to look after Phillip, I got way behind.

**0:28:29**

**LMI:** So you worked in the mill for five years?

**JH:** Yeah.

**LMI:** And what made... was it just getting married that made you stop?

**JH:** Well, I got married because to leave from Wrose, to get to Baildon, on time to start...

**LMI2:** What time did you start?

**JH:** We started at half past seven, but we had to be in the staff room for at latest 25 past. And my buses were like half six to get to Baildon.

**0:28:57**

**JH:** So I saw something advertised for British Home Stores. And they only worked Monday to Friday because Saturdays were filled with Saturday staff, youngers. So I got a job working at British Home Stores but then I'd only just started there and I found out I was pregnant. So I worked there for about 9 months.

**LMI:** So how long was the shift in the mill?

**JH:** We started at half 7 and... 5 o'clock, I think. We had an hour lunch, but then we went on short time.

**0:29:38**

**JH:** So we were, we finished, I think we were Saturday morning as well, in the mill. So we were Monday to Friday and Saturday morning. I think we finished about half three on a Friday. But then had to go in Saturday morning. And then we went on short time, so we went in Monday to Thursday... and had to sign on for Friday and Sat... or Thursday and Fri... I can't remember which.

**LMI:** So that was in the kind of recession, in the late '70s when everything was quite difficult.

**JH:** But I just topped up my wage by getting a couple of cleaning jobs. You know, I was cleaner than some of the people that lived in the 18th century. Ha ha ha!

**0:30:27**

**LMI:** So that's a long shift though, isn't it? It is. 7.30 to 5.00?

**JH:** Yeah. It might have been 7.30 to 4.30, but I know it was...

**LMI:** That'd be about a 45-hour week, with Saturday as well.

**JH:** Probably, yeah. Well, it was the time, wasn't it? It was that sort of time.

**0:30:46**

**LMI:** Yeah. Yeah. Were you tired?

**JH:** Yeah, I, um, yeah, I was. Yeah. I think I, I used to have a bit of a... I'd go back to bed for an hour on a Saturday when I went home, you know. Before I went out at night with me boyfriend.

**LMI:** And what was it like working with your mum?

**JH:** Alright, yeah. She worked strips with me. I mean I worked at, funnily enough later on in life, I worked at Harry Ramsden's fish shop with... my mum worked there in the kitchens, and I got a job because I'd been... I'd worked at the Bankfield Hotel.

**LMI:** In Bingley?

**0:31:31**

**JH:** In Bingley. Yeah.

**LMI:** Oh that's right opposite the college I went to.

**JH:** Yeah, oh is it? Well, it was Cottingley Grammar school, that I went for the Thornes Scheme.

**LMI:** Ah, okay, yeah.

**JH:** So, I worked at the Bankfield Hotel for eight and a half years. And then it changed management. I got a bit fed up, and things were going on in my home life, my husband [died?]. I was a puzzler, it seemed to me. So I decided to go for a different job. I had applied for Morrison's but they'd only just started building Morrison's at Guiseley.

**0:32:17**

**JH:** But I got the interview and everything and they said, 'Soon as it's built, we'll call you.' So I needed something between. So, I went to Harry Ramsden's, got my job through my mum there.

**LMI:** And you were there for 8 years?

**JH:** No, no, no. That was Bankfield, I was there for 8 years. No, I was there about 6 months. I wanted full time, but I only got so many hours. But I used to make it up on tips. Yeah I was quite lucrative on tips!

**LMI:** I loved Harry Ramsdens. I loved it.

**0:32:50**

**JH:** One day I sort of had a panic attack, and I'm putting the plate down, and I dropped the peas on the floor. And I was hyperventilating [gasps] and the girls said, 'I'll take over, you go downstairs and have a breather and, you know, if you smoke have a cig or whatever.' But I went down into the toilets and just went [gasps], splashed me face with water. Went back upstairs and asked to throw me back in or else I won't do it. And I went alright then.

**LMI:** I think we're going to stop here.

**JH:** That's fine.

**LMI:** Recording. We can carry on chatting.

**JH:** Yeah, alright.

**0:33:27**

**LMI:** I must say, it's been great to hear your stories. I never knew that amongst all the textile industries in Bradford, there was a place that made the flock wallpaper.

**JH:** Flock wallpaper, yeah.

**LMI:** That's a new one on me.

**LMI2:** You know it never occurred to me that that was made of material, cloth.

**JH:** Yeah, it was like, you know, big bales of wool, that Airedale Combing Company used to pack.

**LMI:** Yeah, like in those big...

**JH:** Yeah, because my mum worked at Airedale Combing on the combing, when we lived down bottom. And they used to put them in big bales. And like I said, as kids we used to go on, because we only lived on Green Lane. And Airedale was where B&Q is now. Not B&Q.

**0:33:44**

**LMI:** I know the one you mean.

**LMI2:** B&M's.

**JH:** It was there. And it had doors into the loading bay area, and open doors there. So we used to come in and climb all over bales and that, you know.

**0:34:12**

**LMI:** They used to have those big tubs, didn't they? And they used to sort of coil them up inside, the wool, I don't know if they used to...

**JH:** Well, I don't know, but where my dad was, and where we used to jump over, were big bales. You know, like you see in old films, where there's a crane outside, and they have these big hooks? And they go into the side and they're just big... like mid-size of this table, about this big, you know, and they lift them up, they were like that, and they were all stacked up in the doorway.

**LMI:** What did your dad do?

**JH:** He was a driver.

**LMI:** Oh, that's right. You said.

**0:35:03**

**JH:** His wagon was used on Billy Liar.

**LMI:** Oh, was it?

**JH:** Yeah. A lad was driving my dad's wagon in Billy Liar, and he picked up the girl in front of Bradford. That was his lorry. Yeah, my dad was on the sidelines watching it, haven't he?

**LMI:** Oh, that is a great story to end this interview actually. That is fantastic little snippet of information. I love Billy Liar.

**JH:** When it was filmed, his house was on Midland Road in Baildon.



**0:35:39**

**LMI:** Oh.

**JH:** It looks down the road. Did you know that?

**LMI2:** No.

**JH:** Midland Road, it's... You go on... as though you're going towards Guiseley. And there's Nuffield, you know, gymnasium area, and there's some houses, and it's the next road on the left and if you drive up, it comes to a corner like that. The one house that looks completely down the road, that was Billy Liar's house.

**LMI:** Oh, that's really interesting.

**JH:** Yeah, and a lot of it was filmed around Sunwin House. Back of Sunwin House where the subways are.

**LMI:** I knew that.

**JH:** But if you wanted to have a look it's just at the top of that road.

**0:36:26**

**LMI:** So you go past the gymnasium on the Otley Road?

**JH:** Gymnasium's on the right.

**LMI:** On the Otley Road.

**JH:** And there's the shops where you can pull in and get a cuppa or Chinese or whatever. The next road, turn left, go right to the very top. Just before it goes like this, there's one house. You might see a few, but there's one that looks really direct. And that's the house that you use.

**LMI:** I'm going to dig that out and take a picture of it.

**0:36:52**

**JH:** And don't forget that... on Green Lane, the barracks, our road was right opposite the barracks. There's a gateway. I mean, the wall's been reduced over the years, but the wall used to be really high. And it used to be full of army and... you know, men and stuff.

**LMI:** Because I knew that they used to build tanks in another bit of Bradford and bring them down over the bottom of Victoria Road, and there used to be a bridge at the bottom of Victoria Road in Saltaire, that went up into Baildon.

**JH:** Yes, there was, there was...

**LMI:** And they had to pull it down after the war because the tanks would ruin it.

**JH:** And you know that place in Greengates where Hammond's source used to be, that built them cars.

**0:37:45**

**LMI:** Jowetts?

**JH:** Jowetts. My grandad worked there.

**LMI:** Oh, really?

**JH:** Yeah, for a lot of years. And my auntie, my two, my brother, my dad's two sisters worked at the Abroad building the Lancaster Bombers.

**LMI:** Oh, really?

**JH:** Yeah. But that's for another day.

**LMI:** I've got to stop now. Thank you very much, Julie.

**0:38:07**

**JH:** Have I talked too much?

**LMI:** No, no, you haven't at all.

**JH:** Ha ha ha!