

**Patricia Crabtree (Dad Harold Heppleston) - Transcript**

*Audio Quality - Really good throughout*

**0:00:00**

**LMI:** Hi, please can I have your name?

**PC:** It's Patricia Crabtree.

**LMI:** And Patricia, what's your address please?

**PC:** It's [REDACTED]

**LMI:** And how long have you lived here?

**PC:** 24 years.

**LMI:** And where did you live before that?

**PC:** I lived in another part of Clayton. Yeah, Fieldway, Bradford, Clayton.

**LMI:** Thank you. So I've come to talk to you today about the Bradford Mills and what I want to know is what's your connection to Bradford's Mills?

**PC:** My father worked in the mills all his working life.

**LMI:** And what was his role?

**PC:** He started work when he was 13 years old. And he went to work for a company called Kellett Woodman and Company Limited. Not sure what he did when he first started work. He always had a very good knowledge of the whole textile industry, but we don't know if he... He was a clever boy. He passed his scholarship to go to grammar school, but because his father had died, he'd had to go and get a job in the mill. And we - my sister and I, sort of think he was probably like an office boy, or a sort of office junior. We don't think he actually did anything... practically. We don't think he did anything...

**LMI:** On the manufacturing side?

**PC:** So we, yeah, we didn't think he was. We think he's probably more of... but we... as sort of time progressed, we know he started training as a textile designer.

**0:01:40**

**LMI:** Do you have any idea about years?

**PC:** It was before... he started work in 1933, and he was called up to the army in... 1940, I think it was. So it would be some point in the... we think he started training in the mid

1930s. And we think as probably as part of that training that he probably went around all the different departments because he knew so much about weaving and burling and mending and, you name it, every aspect. And he knew quite a lot of the practicalities that were involved in the industry. So, but we think that was probably connected with his designing as much as anything, because he needed that knowledge, that in-depth knowledge. So I mean, I know he took us around the mill, I've been around lots and lots of times. And he would explain how the weavers would set up the looms. And so, he knew... he did know a lot. But he didn't do it himself, if you know what I mean.

**0:02:54**

**LMI:** In terms of the mills, I'm going to ask you first, so in terms of Kellett Woodman, do you have any idea how long he would have been there?

**PC:** Kellett Woodman? He started in 1933, when he was 13, and he left the business in 1982.

**LMI:** The same one?

**PC:** The same company. He worked for the same company all his working life, apart from five or six years that he was in the army. So he had to do his, obviously, had to do during the Second World War, he had to do his service in the army. And they kept his job open for him during that time.

**LMI:** So he was probably away from 1940 to 1944, 1945?

**PC:** He came home, yeah 194-, I think he came... because he was in Burma, so he came home in 1946, I think. Because it went on a little bit longer did that, the war in the Far East.

**LMI:** A lot of the people from Asia were in that side.

**0:03:57**

**PC:** Yeah, but Dad was actually in 20th Indian Division. He was very proud of that.

**LMI:** So was my uncle. Not in that... I don't know about the division.

**PC:** Yeah, he was a signaller.

**LMI:** ...that was captured.

**LMI:** So, 1949 (1939?) to 1946 - that's the only break. Would you kindly help me with the spellings for Kellett Woodman?

**PC:** Kellet.

**LMI:** I put down K-E-L-L-E, is it T?

**PC:** Kellett Woodman. It's there.

**LMI:** Brilliant. So, it's K E double L E double T. Thank you very much.

**0:04:39**

**LMI:** Thank you. So, in terms of the training, do you remember how long the training was? Would it have been a couple of years?

**PC:** I don't know how long it was. We've got some of his workbooks and he... I don't know if it was an apprenticeship, because I think apprenticeships were about five or six years, weren't they?

**LMI:** Longer sometimes. People have said that.

**PC:** Yeah, and he went to night school. It wasn't like sort of day release; I think it was night school that he went to. I would guess it was probably about five or six years, that's why I think it was probably mid-1930s that he started. And he didn't actually finish his final exams. His final exams I think were something like two weeks after he was called up, and the army wouldn't give him permission to go and take his final exams.

**LMI:** Ahh!

**PC:** I know. It was heartbreaking!

**LMI:** He never qualified?

**PC:** No, because he was called up and was away for six years. And he came back six years later. He met my mum in 1946 and they got married and had my brother. I think they got married in 1947, had my brother and... He'd got a wife and a young family, and I think he went back and it was just too much. Because it was night school.

**LMI:** Yes.

**PC:** So he never actually finally qualified, after all the years of training. But he actually went back and he worked in the... what was called accounting house.

**0:06:27**

**LMI:** Right.

**PC:** An accounting house would be what we know nowadays as an accounts department.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**PC:** And he was... he trained... he was a trainee... he started off as a cashier, a trainee cashier.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**PC:** And he ended up, most of...you know, all my sort of life, that I've ever knew him, he was.... he ended up being the chief cashier.

**LMI:** Right.

**PC:** Which would be like an accountant. They dealt with wages, and the money coming into the business, and balancing the books, and you know, forecasting.

**0:07:08**

**PC:** We tend to think of a cashier as somebody sort of working in a shop, but it wasn't that kind of cashier. So yeah, it was chief cashier in the end. I think it was an assistant chief cashier or something for quite a lot of years until his boss retired. And then when his boss retired, as happened in those days, he was next in line so he took over.

**LMI:** That would have been two very different careers.

**PC:** Very.

**LMI:** Did he ever kind of regret not being able to be a designer?

**PC:** He regretted the fact that he wasn't allowed to take his final exams. That was always a big regret. But he was a very positive, upbeat kind of person. I don't think he believed in regrets. And he actually loved numbers, and he loved maths, and he was very good. He was a very personable person and he liked working in the office and he liked working with people. But yes, I think not being allowed to take those final exams....

**LMI:** Sometimes we can be very rigid, can't we?

**PC:** Yeah, we can. I suppose it was... exceptional times, weren't there?

**LMI:** Six years though, that would be exceptional.

**PC:** Yeah it was, yeah, it's like two weeks.

**LMI:** I'm surprised that with all that, he wasn't allowed to practice though. You're right because it was like you said it was exceptional circumstances.

**PC:** Yeah and he went to when he went into the army he trained as a signaler.

**LMI:** Yes.

**PC:** So he did morse code and, you know, sort of radio signals. So that was sort of six years of his life doing something completely different as well.

**LMI:** Wow. In terms of when he came back then, in the accounts department, is that where you used to go and visit him? What was it like?

**PC:** Well, when he first came back, Kellett Woodman's had their headquarters, (which I've got photographs of, or a drawing of), was on Union Street in Bradford Town Centre, which no longer exists.

**0:09:25**

**PC:** It's approximately, well... approximately somewhere around where the Norfolk Gardens and the hotel and the car park is still, just about still there, isn't it now? They're just about to pull that down, aren't they? But yeah, it was in that sort of area. So that's where he went back to work. He didn't go to Grange Shed down Farnham Street. He went to... was it Farnham Street or was it Grantham Road? I never know which is which.

**LMI:** It's Grantham Road. I think it's Grantham Road. It's further down isn't it? And I don't think, it's quite built up at the moment. I can't imagine there being any factory.

**PC:** Yeah, I mean, it's still there, the building is still there. What was Graham's Shed is still there.

**LMI:** Right. I feel like it's probably more like Farnham Road.

**PC:** Farnham Road, it's the one that comes, the steep one down from the funeral directors.

**LMI:** Exactly. Yes, that's the one.

**0:10:19**

**PC:** So even though he started his working life there, when he came back from the war...and I don't know when he went to Union Street, if he went before the war...but yeah, he worked there until Bradford was being redeveloped. And they were pulling that building, that area... they were wanting to redevelop the town centre in the 1950s. And so they moved from there to Bolton Road, to a building which they called Kelwood House. I don't know what its original name was.

**LMI:** Kelwood House.

**PC:** And that was on Bolton Road. And that no longer exists either. That's been pulled down.

**LMI:** Right.

**PC:** And that is where I remember him working as a little girl. Because I think they moved there, I think in about 1957. I think I read somewhere it was 1957. And I was born in 1957, in December. So, I remember going to Bolton Road.

**0:11:23**

**LMI:** What are your memories? What do you remember?

**PC:** Ooh. The building on Bolton Road, oh, that was like a warehouse building. My sister and I were talking about this the other day. I remember going in and it had, it was a strange thing, it had a lift shaft that went up two stories above the top of the roof.

**LMI:** Right.

**PC:** And that was because the previous owners of the building had had a fire, so they'd demolished the top two stories of the building.

**LMI:** Right.

**PC:** But the lift shaft still stood with all its mechanism. Sort of, you know, just in mid-air kind of thing and it always used to terrify me, did that lift, because I always used to sort of think... because Dad always used to say it still actually went all the way up to these two stories that didn't exist anymore.

**LMI:** So you could step outside of it, the door opened?

**0:12:17**

**PC:** Yeah, well, it always sounded scary. But yeah, I remember that. I remember going into the front door and on the left-hand side when you went in, it was all stone steps. And there was a little office that was the telephone exchange for the building. And it was a little office where the telephone operator (or I think there might have been two of them), and it was a room, and they had all the sort of plug-in things, so calls would all probably gone into that main room, and then been redirected to the various extensions within the building. That was the only thing I think that I remember on the ground floor. And then you went up stone steps, and then there were offices where Dad...where the counting house was. And they had high desks with sort of sloping tops, that they put ledges on because they stood to work. They didn't sit down.

**0:13:18**

**PC:** We think of sitting down at offices. But they were all standing up desks. They didn't sit down.

**LMI:** I wonder why?

**PC:** I don't think people did. I think this furniture... this furniture, I assume, must have been moved over from Union Street.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**PC:** But yeah, they never had low-level desks. And they had ledgers, because I mean, they had big... I suppose because it was all money and whatever.

**LMI:** And paper and everything.

**0:13:55**

**PC:** So they had the big financial ledgers, which would be big books. And they put those on the... there'd be like a ledge on this sort of... And that's what they would work from. So, when he came in, I always remember, he used to go in and one of the main things was opening the post. I can remember him doing this. And he would sort out all the cheques. They would all go on one side. And then they would all have to be entered into the ledgers. And then they would all be gathered together and taken to the bank. I remember him taking them in a special sort of briefcase thing, in a box. Everything used to have to be taken to the bank every day and banked. But yeah, everything first had to be entered into the ledgers. And I suppose in those ledgers there would be invoices...yeah, because they had to do invoices as well. So everything would be entered in there. And then they had wages ledgers. They were huge. Big. I mean, I was a little girl, but they seemed like huge, big volumes.

**0:15:04**

**LMI:** Registers.

**PC:** Yeah, absolutely. I mean, it was a big... at one time, it was a big company, and they had subsidiaries, so there was an awful lot of stuff to do. And the other things I remember as well, I used to love playing with these when I was a little girl, were all the rubber stamps, they would stamp when invoices had been paid. And I remember getting bits of paper and being allowed to use all these different date stamps and things that said 'Paid' and various other words they said.

**PC:** And then the other thing that I remember about the building was on the opposite side of the corridor was the boardroom, and that was carpeted, and it was quite palatial and pictures of people who owned it on the wall. And there were sort of nice sitting down proper plush desks and whatever. And that's where the managing director was based. And directors would, if they came in, that's where they would be.

**LMI:** In the boardroom? Because we think of the boardroom as where you just go for a meeting.

**PC:** That's where they worked. Yeah, that's where, that was the boardroom and they, yeah. No, we would think of it as a meeting room, but that's where they were based.

**LMI:** Right.

**PC:** I think they were, anyway. That's what it seemed like.

**0:16:44**

**PC:** I don't think they had anything separate. They didn't have meeting rooms as such. They just worked didn't they?

**LMI:** Yes.

**PC:** Oh and then the rest of the building was given over to warehousing.

**LMI:** So was there any manufacturing in there?

**PC:** There wasn't any manufacturing in it, no, but they would store things. So fabric would be brought there. So it was manufactured at Grange Head (and at one time they had a mill in Colne as well.)...I don't really know how it all happened, but the warehousing was the storage place. So that was all at Bolton Road. And that was probably the bulk of the building. Obviously there were lots of people that worked in that area, but that was sort of separate from the offices. I think there were other offices as well. I think there was typists, there was like a typing room.

**LMI:** Yeah. When I was looking at your photos, there's some photos of them going on holidays. Would you be able to remember where they went and did they do that every year?

**PC:** There was a .... The photographs that we've got...we've got a lot of photographs from the 50th anniversary of the company, where the whole company was taken to London on a fleet of buses, and they had a day out in London. And then after that, even when I was a little girl...

**LMI:** Any idea what year that was?

**PC:** I think it was about 1957/1958, something like that. The 50th anniversary.

**0:18:33**

**LMI:** And do you know where they went to London? What did they do? I think on one of the photos it said they went to the Tower.

**PC:** Yeah, I think it did.

**LMI:** 'Waiting to go up the Tower.'

**PC:** Yes, I think it does. I know they all really enjoyed it. I mean, they all went. I mean, the company paid for them all to go, the whole workforce! They must have closed the whole business down. But then after that when I was a little girl, they always used to... every year there was... nothing big like that, but they always organised a works trip. And I think,



certainly by the time I was a little girl, I mean not everybody went and it was probably more departmental as much as anything. But I can remember going to Blackpool...and the sort of partners and families were allowed to go, but that was paid for by the company.

**PC:** Yeah, I remember going to Blackpool to see the lights one year. I think they always did something like that. But not a big mass, everybody going all at once.

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**LMI:** So, in terms of the holidays, with offices, were there fixed two weeks off as well? Or was theirs different to the manufacturing side?

**PC:** I think certainly in the early days, they had what they called Bowling Tide Week which was the fixed two weeks holidays. I mean another thing that... not holidays exactly, but I mean even when I was a little girl, they worked six days a week.

**LMI:** Right.

**PC:** And they finished...Dad always used to work Saturday morning and finish at lunchtime. As I say I can remember great excitement when Dad finished on a Saturday lunchtime. But they did, I mean, the whole thing, everybody worked. They didn't finish until Saturday lunchtime. So it was a five and a half day a week.

**LMI:** Five and a half day a week. In terms of the hours, did they have nine to five, or were they different?

**PC:** I think they were probably... I think it was longer than that to be perfectly honest. I think Dad probably worked till five, but I think he probably started earlier than that,

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**PC:** He was a bit of a workaholic. He probably always worked longer than five as well. But I don't think he started as late as nine. I think it's probably more likely he started about eight o'clock. Eight. eight-thirty, yeah. They were long hours.

**LMI:** Yes.

**PC:** And that would be five days a week, and then it would be probably eight, eight-thirty Saturday till, I think it was till one o'clock on a Saturday.

**0:21:15**

**PC:** So it was a long working week.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**PC:** I know it was office work and it wasn't, but it was still...

**LMI:** They're stood on their feet all that time.

**PC:** Stood on their feet, yeah.

**LMI:** They weren't sat down were they?

**PC:** Yeah, they weren't.

**LMI:** In terms of food and lunches, do you know if he took it from home or if there was a canteen there?

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**PC:** No, this was really, they had...now this was one thing that's always interested me, they had a long... they had a lunch hour, or was it an hour, or it might even have been an hour and a half and he used to come home and Mum used to make a cooked lunch. And then he would go back again.

**LMI:** Was that regularly?

**PC:** Yeah, that would be every day. Yeah. Bear in mind we didn't have a car or anything like that. This was all public transport.

**LMI:** And it wasn't close, I suppose.

**PC:** Well, it was in Great Horton. My parents lived in Great Horton. I mean, they lived at, when my mum and dad first got married, they lived at Horton Grange. What was the... and it sounds very posh, but it wasn't... they lived in what was the Horton Grange, which has long since been pulled down, and that was their first home. And it was actually... Bradford Council had compulsorily purchased it after the war and converted it into flats for newly married couples. So, it was a council flat, even though it was in the Grange. And they had a...not very much. I think they had like a room and a kitchen area and one bedroom and that's where they lived and they had my brother and my sister there.

**0:22:51**

**PC:** And they all lived together. So yes, it wasn't that far. It wasn't very far to get home.

**LMI:** Good.

**PC:** Because he was in Union Street. So Union Street to Grange Road, to bottom of Grange Road wasn't far, it didn't take long. And public transport would have been good and reliable in those days.

**LMI:** Ah, yes.

**PC:** Yeah, so it must have been good enough for him to get home in time, have a cooked lunch, and then go back again.

**LMI:** Go back again, yes.

**0:23:16**

**LMI:** You've reminded me of my dad now. My dad used to talk about Union Street.

**PC:** Did he? Oh wow!

**LMI:** Um, he worked in the mills, didn't he? And city centre was an area where you would get your buses from.

**PC:** Yeah.

**LMI:** So you'd go...

**PC:** Yeah, there were bus stops round that area. Yeah. My sister was talking to me about it last night. She said, 'Do you remember the bus stop?' She said she remembers the bus stop just by the town hall.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**PC:** And there were just open warehouses behind us, and I remember that as a little girl. So, yeah.

**0:23:47**

**LMI:** The union, do you know if your dad was ever a member of a union, or took an interest?

**PC:** No, no he wasn't. I don't think there were...?

**LMI:** Yeah. I want to ask you about his salary. Do you have any any idea about how much he would have got paid over the year? Did you ever hear anything?

**PC:** Never enough! I don't know how much he earned. But it wasn't a huge amount. You know...

**LMI:** Because an accountant, nowadays, is considered one of the professional jobs.

**PC:** It would be a professional job.

**LMI:** You'd get more than the mill workers and things/

**PC:** No, I don't, it wasn't particularly well paid at all. As I say Mum and Dad, I mean Dad was very scrupulous with money, but as I described, they lived in the flat in Horton Grange,

which was a big old house, but they only had one room and they didn't leave there until my brother was... I think my sister was about three and my brother would be about five.

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**PC:** So I mean they had, you know, young... a toddler, and it wasn't that they were babies or anything like that. They only had one bedroom. I remember Mum said they put a curtain across, you know, sort of just to divide the children away from them. And then they moved to Southmere Road. And it was an inner terrace, a 1930s little inner terrace. And that's where I was born. I think that was a two bedroom little house. So it wasn't like they had lots of... they always seemed to struggle financially.

**LMI:** I think I find that interesting because nowadays we make a big distinction between, in terms like if you're working class, if you're a professional, the kind of jobs you do, and you assume that if you're an accountant, they'll be in a well-to-do area.

**PC:** Yeah, you would.

**LMI:** So artist work wasn't a particular... It wasn't particularly...

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**PC:** It wasn't well-paid at all.

**LMI:** It wasn't well-paid.

**PC:** No. In fact, I'm almost sure that I can remember Dad saying that the weavers were very well... well he always thought in relation, the weavers were well paid, and they could earn a lot of money because they could get lots of overtime. I mean, they probably had to work extremely hard and extremely long hours, but I think they had the capacity to earn more than he did.

**LMI:** Yeah, and they did because when we talk to them, any time they could get it seems like they worked.

**PC:** Yeah, Oh yeah, they did. I think they all had to work such long hours.

**LMI:** Yes, they all generally just worked.

**PC:** Yeah.

**0:26:32**

**LMI:** Right. In terms of the course that he did, did he manage to use any of these skills anywhere, do you know?

**PC:** I don't think he did. Not afterwards, no. I don't think he did, unfortunately.

**LMI:** Is there anything else you would like to tell me about those times, and what it felt like to be a daughter of somebody who worked in the mills and what was the atmosphere like in those days? As they started closing, what did it feel like?

**PC:** Yeah, I was always very proud of my dad. I was very proud of what he did. He was very proud of what he did. He was very proud of the industry that he worked in. He thought it was absolutely wonderful.

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**PC:** In later years, the Bolton Road office and warehouse closed and everything moved back to Grange Head, so he came full circle. And he liked that, in some respects. He liked being amongst the mill where there were looms and everything. And he liked the people. And I think, before I mentioned that, when he was in the army, he was based in India and Burma, but he was in an Indian division. And he learnt to speak Urdu, which in those days was brilliant. So in the 1960s and '70s, when people started moving over to work in the mills, it was absolutely brilliant. And Dad found... he made some brilliant friends. But it was great because he could communicate. A little bit, I'm not saying he was fluent, but he knew enough to get by and be able to communicate with people. And that was good. And people always seemed to like him. Whenever he went into town, he was always... he was a kind man. He was a nice man. He had a lot of respect for the people that worked in the mill, lots and lots of respect. He had respect for the hours that they worked and their skills. I always remember him saying things like burlers and menders,

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**PC:** he said they were particularly worth their weight in gold. He said they could make or break a company. You know, a skilled burler and mender, they were absolutely priceless. Just as a good weaver was. I suppose you got bad ones. Like everything, you always get ones that weren't particularly good. But yeah, he was very interested in it all.

**PC:** And it was sad, it was sad when the industry started dying. I mean, the business closed down, Dad was made redundant. He was heartbroken, absolutely heartbroken. I mean, he was 62 by that time, so he was coming up to retirement. It's a shame he didn't manage to do his last three years. He would have loved to do that. It would have been nice for him to have his last three years and go off with a bang and a party. And it just fizzled out, didn't it? Yeah, and I regret the fact that it was such a big, interesting, vibrant industry.

**LMI:** Yes.

**PC:** When I was a little girl and there was so much going for it, and then in the end it just sort of petered out. I think they sold a lot of the looms, I think a lot of them went abroad.

And yeah, I was just sad. And he was sad. For a while, and then he picked himself up and did lots of other things because he was a positive person.

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**LMI:** After that, what did he do after he was made redundant?

**PC:** He didn't work again after that. He wasn't able. He'd worked for the same company all his working life. He was 62 by that time. And times, to be fair, times had moved on. And he had worked in a very traditional environment, and by 1982, they'd actually got an accountant in, somebody who was called an accountant, and everything was... the world was changing. There was no longer, I think, any space for somebody with Dad's skills. His skills were probably becoming almost redundant. He had a lot of interests outside work. He was a Scout Leader, and put an awful lot of effort and energy into that.

**LMI:** Yeah, and a lot of hours as well.

**PC:** Yeah.

**0:31:47**

**LMI:** Thank you. I'll keep the audio going and I just want to talk about some of the photos.

**PC:** Okay.

**LMI:** Because I know some of these are from the 1970s. So you've got a couple of retirement photos there. Yeah. And I'll make some notes as well and I'll take some photos. I wanted to ask you, can you remember some of the people, because one of them you mentioned, he was the Managing Director.

**PC:** He was.

**LMI:** So please could I have that name and the year and...

**PC:** That was the Managing Director, that was 1978. Yeah. That was that one. And the chap who on the left-hand side is called Harry Dolby.

**0:32:36**

**PC:** And it's his retirement do.

**LMI:** Right.

**PC:** Retirement presentation, should I say. The chap presenting him with the... whatever he's getting, is called John Woodman. I think he was probably the last Managing Director.

Yeah, I think the company folded then. Not long after that. And Dad was, I think, up the far left-hand side. Yes, he is.

**LMI:** So, um, and the second photo I wanted to talk about was one of the ones in the offices, and where they're all holding a cup of tea.

**PC:** Yeah.

**LMI:** Was that kind of typical of the environment in that photo?

**PC:** It was a lot more relaxed. I mean, and this must be quite a late photograph, and I think that this one is, probably...in fact it is, this is in Bolton Road, Coward House.

**0:33:43**

**PC:** But this would be a time certainly in my lifetime, [because] it's a colour photograph. But yes, it was a lot more friendly and relaxed and chilled by this sort of era. It was a lot less formal, I mean, looking at the clothes, they've still got jackets and ties, you know, collars and ties on but it's still a lot less formal than those early sort of 1950s images.

**PC:** I know one thing I was going to mention, just digressing a little bit, I know the directors...we talked about John Woodman being one of the directors, but the older directors, they always called them, I mean there's Mr Jack, Mr Guy. They were all Woodmans, but to differentiate, but they always called them Mr and their first name. And it was very old-fashioned and very deferential, wasn't it really, to do that?

**LMI:** Yeah.

**PC:** And I always think of that. Yeah, Mr. Jack, Mr. Guy, I remember Mr. Guy. And John Woodman. I don't think they ever called him Mr. John. By that time he was just John Woodman.

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**PC:** He was actually, I think, the son of one of the two. I think he was the son of Jack, wasn't he? Yeah. I think he was the nephew of Guy. That's how it all worked in those days. But yeah, that was a strange thing. But yeah, that was nice. I like that. I think that's nice and relaxed. And it just shows how... I don't know, they just look like a nice bunch of people that are getting on well together. I think there was always a good atmosphere. You know, sort of... because they worked together for years and years. It wasn't like somebody would go and work for two or three years and then they'd flit off for another job that was better paid. They started when they left school, and they stayed. And I still think there was a bit of...even in the... I don't know if that's the '70s or '80s...I still think there was an element of that sort of ethos.

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**PC:** Once you got a good job, and then you just worked your way up.

**PC:** Yeah, that was a nice one. There is one of Dad as well in the 1980s, late '70s. It's a colour one.

**LMI:** Quite a few of these were the ones from the trip to London.

**PC:** Those were all from that trip to London.

**LMI:** And then you've got this photo here and it's in a lovely little cardboard case as well. And that was all the people who worked for the company, who were signed up in the military.

**PC:** Who were signed up in the military, yeah, including the women. Yeah.

**0:36:30**

**LMI:** Yeah.

Because they would have still, I mean, the women would have still had to do, yeah, national service.

**LMI:** And all the photos are with everybody in their uniforms, aren't they?

**PC:** Mm-hmm. Yeah.

**LMI:** In terms of that photo, would that be up on a wall somewhere do you think?

**PC:** I would imagine it probably was. I should imagine that's probably a small version of something that was probably framed and on the wall and probably in the boardroom or something at the time.

**0:37:13**

**LMI:** Because it gives that impression, doesn't it?

Mmm.

**LMI:** Thank you. Is there any of the photos that you wanted to say anything about?

**PC:** Um, yeah, um, these are just, those, those were not, these are all sort of group pictures. That's one of Dad in Grange Head and that's not probably long before he retired.

**LMI:** And he was still standing and working.



**PC:** Yeah, but he did at that point, he did have a proper sit down. When they moved to Grange Head, they did have proper sit-down desks.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**PC:** But I think Dad always liked to stand up. Yeah.

**LMI:** In terms of Grange Head, what year would they have moved back from Bolton Road, do you think?

**0:38:00**

**PC:** I think that would have been in the 1970s. I would think probably mid-70s, maybe '75, '76, something like that.

**LMI:** Thank you. He was used to standing up and working, wasn't he?

**PC:** He was, indeed.

**LMI:** Yeah. It's sort of through the wheel there.

**PC:** Yeah, because that one is still, that's relatively recent. I think that's a '70s one. That's at Bolton Road. And then, that one that you've got in your hand. Yeah, probably must have moved in the '70s.

**0:38:40**

**PC:** That's when the textile industry was starting to decline, wasn't it, late 70s?

**LMI:** Yeah. Is there anything your sister mentioned that she wanted us to know?

**PC:** I don't think there's anything other than what we've sort of discussed now.

**LMI:** Tell us of your mum, do you know if you think about, if your dad worked in the mills or, did she ever work in the mills or?

**PC:** Mum didn't come from Bradford, no she came from Northallerton, mum was a nurse. So no, she never did. She did work briefly at St Luke's. But no, she had no connection with it at all.

**LMI:** What was it like being a family of somebody who worked in the mills?

**0:39:24**

**PC:** It was just normal, because I think everybody's families worked in the mill. I didn't know that many people whose families didn't, at least one member, at some time. Even if they

didn't work in the mill now, they had worked in the mill. It was a big thing. When I went to school in Great Horton, you walked past the mills and you know, on sunny days, hot sunny days, the doors were open and you could, you got all the smell of the wool fat and the oil and whatever and then machines clattering away, you know, and it was just part of everyday life. You know, in some respects you were less aware of lots of different occupations. I mean yes, you knew about things like teachers and doctors and you know, milkmen and shopkeepers and things. But if people didn't do those kinds of job it seemed like everybody worked in the mill. Every family.

**0:40:47**

**LMI:** Actually, one of the smells you said, as you walked past, you said you smelled the wool fat. What else did you mention?

**PC:** And the oil. That mixture of the oil. I mean, if I could bottle it, I'd love to be able to bottle it actually! Because I didn't actually dislike it! And when we went and looked around Grange Head, that was the sort of first thing that you were aware of was - that sort of smell. But it wasn't an unpleasant smell. I liked it. It's not weird but it was that...

**LMI:** Was it a smell of sewing machine oil, the kind of when you put in machines to oil...?

**PC:** I would imagine it probably would be, yes. But it was that, and the sort of wool fibres I suppose. Yeah, it was a pleasant, not an unpleasant smell at all. But the noise as well.

**LMI:** What was the noise like?

**PC:** Loud, I always remember that. I mean nowadays you'd never be allowed to even go and look round without having earphones on. I can remember actually going into the weaving shed with Dad when he was showing us round. You just couldn't hear. I mean, they used to lip read. Dad could lip read. And Dad, not surprisingly, went deaf in later life. But yeah, they were brilliant at lip reading. They all lip read. But Dad could as well. Had to do, it was a necessity because you couldn't hear.

**0:42:28**

**LMI:** It was a skill wasn't it?

**PC:** It was.

**LMI:** An essential skill part of it.

**PC:** But it did damage people's hearing. I remember that being so loud. So loud, but exciting in a way. I think exciting, seeing all the looms clattering away. And as I say, then the smell. And it wasn't a horrible atmosphere, it just seemed exciting and a nice atmosphere. Yes I remember Dad taking us around. And always having a word. And knowing people...tending

to know people by name and knowing a little bit about them. Because he did know people by name. Because obviously he was involved with the wages. So he knew the workforce, he knew them by name. And if they needed things and, you know, they would come and see him. I'm trying to think what kind of things they would need.

**0:43:24**

**PC:** Yeah, I don't know, they used to come and see Dad.

**LMI:** I suppose if the wage was slightly longer, tax was slightly longer, probably.

**PC:** I don't know, but it was more if they needed... I don't know. And... this is going off on another thing. There was a Benevolent Fund. The company had a Benevolent Fund to support employees in times of need.

**LMI:** What kind of things were people allowed to apply for that?

**0:43:58**

**PC:** I think it was sort of like if somebody was... I know this was a real-life example... this was one of the last times I think it was ever used. An employee, I think he's probably in one of those photographs, and he sadly developed cancer. He wasn't retirement age but he was no longer able to work. He had a mortgage to pay and the Benevolent Fund... I think it was a modest amount of mortgage... and I think that Dad pushed and pushed and pushed, because I think they had to go before a board or whatever, and I remember Dad helping his wife out and him and going and seeing them and saying 'We're going to put a case together to get this paid.' And I think it got paid off. It was those sorts of things, you know, somebody was injured, and it would pay out if they couldn't work and they couldn't get anything from anywhere else. So it was for extreme

**0:44:59**

**PC:** circumstances and I think Dad would... it was never his decision, but Dad would make people aware of it, because a lot of them didn't know about it. But if Dad was aware that people were in need, he would speak to them and say, 'Do you want to put an application in?' And help them fill things in. That was another thing that Dad would do. Because he could speak to people, and if people were struggling and couldn't fill forms in and things, for whatever... he would do a lot of things unrelated to work, but just a bit of helping hand.

**LMI:** I don't think I've come across that in any of the other mills. Or if it has it certainly didn't come up in any of the interviews.

**PC:** I've got a big bunch of stuff about the Benevolent Fund upstairs. Yeah. And Dad always used to feel it never got used enough. Because he said he used to push for it to be used. And

it was...there was sort of like, I suppose, when it was drawn up by the business, there was only certain circumstances that it could be used. But they used to forget about it.

**0:46:31**

**PC:** And I remember when the company was going downhill, Dad always sort of felt there was so much money, whatever it was, a sum of money in this Benevolent Fund, and Dad said it needed to be spent. Because it was only for the benefit of the workforce. It wasn't for the benefit of the business, the company. It couldn't be used to prop the business up when things were going wrong. It was only for the employees. And I remember towards the end, Dad pushed and pushed and pushed to help as many people out, as he possibly could. And I don't know whatever happened to it in the end. There might have been a problem nowadays, there probably wouldn't have been much left in it and it probably never was a lot, but at the time it made significant differences to people's lives. Do you know who set it up?

**0:47:24**

**LMI:** I don't know. I was going to ask do you know who set it up and what percentage they would have put into it?

**PC:** I don't know, I have no idea. Whether it was the original founders. I mean, if we're thinking 1957 was 50 years, so we're thinking probably turn of the century... the original people who started the business... maybe they might have done it. I'm not sure. It was a kind of thing that... they liked to be benevolent, didn't they?

**LMI:** Yeah.

**PC:** A sort of late Victorian gentleman that started businesses.

**LMI:** Yep, I'll add it to those. Thank you very much. Okay. Thank you for your time.

**0:48:03**

**PC:** Thank you.