

## **Jackie and Colin Holding – Transcript**

*Audio Quality: Background noise throughout.*

*Short transcript focuses on working conditions and social events*

**0:00:00**

**LMI:** Hi, can I ask your name?

**JH:** It's Jackie Holding.

**LMI:** And your name please?

**CH:** Colin Holding.

**LMI:** And can I ask you guys, what's your connection to the Bradford Mills, please?

**JH:** My mum, Olive Wilson, worked in the mills. She went... when she finished school on the Friday, she started working in the mill on the Monday. And she would be about 13 then. And she joined her two sisters, Doreen and Hilda, and her mum, who was also called Olive. And they worked in the mills... I don't know for... well, even throughout having children and beyond. So she worked in... until well into her 40s, I think she stayed in the mill.

**0:00:38**

**LMI:** Do you remember what shifts they did in those days?

**JH:** When I was little, she was doing 10 till 2. And then, I think it was 6 till 10, I think she did. She worked quite... she did two shifts a day while we were young. And then I think it would have just been day shifts that she did when she left school. But she did... she thought there was a lot of fun in the mill. And they had overlookers who were their bosses, who would check them. They had people bringing... I think they were skeps, not skips, that they'd bring round, and doffing off bobbins. And she said how quick you could get.

**0:01:18**

**JH:** You know, she really liked... I don't know about the challenges of it, but they were really quick at what they did. And they'd take over each other's frame as they were working, and they'd go and have their breaks and their cigarettes and stuff. But Christmas, she said, they used to trim up even the frames and things, that health and safety would have been scared about now. And then they'd have trips, when the mills closed, to the seaside. And she was 17 when she went to the seaside and saw the sea for the first time. And I think they'd go on either charabancs, or whatever they did in those days. Yeah, she just had a great time and she loved it. Absolutely.

**0:01:49**

**LMI:** As for the beaches, are you able to remember which seaside she went to first?

**JH:** Blackpool.

**LMI:** Went to Blackpool.

**JH:** Blackpool. And I think they were common. They had certain mill weeks where the mills shut down. I think it was like the first two weeks in August. And all the mills would...

**CH:** All Bradford went to Blackpool.

**LMI:** All of Bradford! [Laughs].

**0:02:09**

**JH:** Yeah. There were Bradford holiday weeks. Each town would do that. Each area of the country, didn't they? And there's certain weeks where everything shut down. Yeah, she absolutely loved it. She said in those days, if she could go back she would. But they did their own kind of language as well. They could speak to each other because it was so noisy and her hearing went...her hearing wasn't good because it was so noisy. And I used to visit when I was little, sometimes she'd take me with her, wanting to visit somebody. And it was so noisy. But they could speak across... whether they could lip-read and make signs and stuff, but they always managed.

**CH:** I remember visiting my mum at Bulmer and Lumb's and stood next to her shouting at the top of your voice, and you still could barely hear.

**0:02:49**

**JH:** So loud, yeah. And they didn't have any ear defenders in those days, did they?

**CH:** No.

**LMI:** Are you able to remember the names? The names or areas of the mills?

**JH:** One was... I think it was Joseph Pickles, Pickles Mills on Upper Castle Street. Mark Dawsons, which was somewhere in the same area, sort of West Bowling, bottom of Manchester Road. Kit Wards, that was her first. I think it was Kit Wards she went to. And I think it might have been Preston Street or a mill on Preston Street. That was where she went. And she really did honestly loved it, what she did.

**LMI:** And Colin, as regards your mum, which mills did she work in?

**CH:** As a young child we used to live up Netherlands Avenue, so she worked at the mill that was at Otley Roundabout. Just off Otley Roundabout on Halifax Road. It's now long gone.

**0:03:38**

**CH:** Later, I don't... Oh, I remember that, they used to have their own creche. Because my younger sister, I remember taking her there, while she worked in the mill. But she couldn't settle.

**LMI:** I haven't come across that before, that like a mill had a creche. So what age did they have that up...?

**CH:** It was right next to the mill, when she was only very little, yeah.

**0:03:56**

**JH:** So Julie, that was...she was born...what year would she have been born? Early '60s?

**CH:** Yeah.

**JH:** That would have been in the '60s, so things would have moved on.

**CH:** Yeah. She then moved to Wibsey, and she didn't work in the mill then. But later on, she returned to work at Bulmer and Lumb's, off Halifax... it's still there.

**JH:** And she retired from there. So she were in her 60s then.

**CH:** Yeah, she went back to the mill because she also liked working in the mill as well. I don't think... it's the camaraderie she would have worked.

**0:04:20**

**JH:** I remember when my mum would come home on a night, after a 2 to 10 shift/6 to 10 shift, she'd give us a kiss. But I could *smell* the oil from the wool. And in a pinny pocket (she always had a pinny on) little bits of edges of wool that she'd be cutting off, for whatever...

**CH:** [?]

**JH:** Yeah. Thread or whatever it was, yeah. So that smell... So when I go now, because we go back to the Industrial Museum, and you go in the mill bit there, that smell makes me think of when I was young.

**LMI:** Fabulous. Thank you very much for that.

**JH:** Thank you.