

Radley History Club

Life in Radley in the 1930s and 1940s

Information extracted from interviews in the Radley Remembered series, mostly carried out in [2003 and 2004?]

Archive number:	A.58
Date of interview:	15 February 2005

Personal details pre 1953

Interviewee (complete separate form for co-interviewee if also resident in Radley pre 1953):	BETTY LEE (née Cook) (interviewed at 'Endways', Nursery Close, Radley Road, Abingdon).
Date of birth:	1926 (in Abingdon)
Date came to Radley (if different):	
Address in 1930s/1940s:	77 Bowyer Road, Abingdon (1929–1946); 'Lindean' on Radley Road, Abingdon (near Radley end) (after 1946).
Other family information:	When married (in 1946), husband was dental technician in East St. Helen's St. Brother was one of the last telegram boys in Abingdon before he became postman. Two children, Susan and Alan. Daughter Susan married John Oxlade in Radley Church, with Prime Minister Wilson and wife in congregation since Susan (as nursery nurse) had looked after Wilson's two twin granddaughters (daughters of Mr & Mrs Robin Wilson) for several years and twins acted as bridesmaids.

Education

Schools/colleges attended:	
Other information about education:	

Work

Occupation and place of work of father:	Postman (paternal grandfather also was postman (no bikes then, he had to deliver letters on foot as far as Clifton Hampden)).
Occupation and place of work of mother:	Milliner (worked at DuPont's [? spelling, @01:25] shop in Abingdon (where Stroll-In used to be in the Market Place)).

<p>Occupation and place of work of interviewee in 1930s/40s (if any):</p>	<p>Interviewee much involved with Brownies, Guides and Rangers all her life after joining Brownies when aged 8. When interviewee became Guide, her Guide Leader was Mrs Gowing of 'Braeside', Whites Lane. In 1943, worked at Padworth [? spelling, @05:55] House near Reading looking after evacuees aged 1–5 from London. After end of WW2, worked as children's nurse. In 1955 (along with Daphne Green) set up Brownie Pack in Radley (meetings held in old Village Hall just over railway bridge). From 1963 was in charge of Brownie Pack holidays (first holiday in Windsor Forest). Was Brownie Leader for 35 years, and District Commissioner for 10 years.</p>
<p>Information about farm work and farms:</p>	
<p>Other information about what jobs people were doing:</p>	
<p>Travel</p>	
<p>Mode of travel to school:</p>	
<p>Mode of travel to work (interviewee and parents):</p>	
<p>Any comments about the station and use of the train:</p>	
<p>Any other comments about travel including, including car use and ownership:</p>	
<p>Buildings - location and characteristics</p>	
<p>Location of interviewee's home:</p>	
<p>Any comments on size, numbers of rooms, sharing, outside loos, source of water, electricity and telephone services etc. of interviewee's home:</p>	
<p>Any comments on location and characteristics of other buildings in Radley including dwellings, shops, village hall, barns, laundries etc:</p>	
<p>Services and pastimes (excluding education and travel covered above)</p>	
<p>Comments about shopping including retail deliveries:</p>	

Comments on health and health services:	
Comments on play, pastimes and recreational activities - e.g. swimming in river, pub, clubs and societies, football, darts, guides:	[Recorded interview contains supplementary information on Brownie activities.]
Comments on religion, church and choir:	Attended Radley Church, since lived in Radley Parish.
Miscellaneous	
Any comments about Radley people not covered elsewhere:	
Comments about Radley College, its way of operating and relations with the village:	
Comments on Coronation and Jubilee events:	
Any information on impact of WW2 in Radley and about wartime activities:	During WW2, Rangers and Venture Scouts served as messengers for ARP. Rangers also manned canteen for members of the armed forces in Clock House in Abingdon.
Record here any other interesting items not covered above and general observations on life in those days:	Brownies used to learn how to lay fires, but no longer. In 1930s and 40s no street lighting at all in Radley. Nowadays heating and lighting in Radley Church is much improved. Most travel then either by cycling or walking; no jumping into cars. Children had more freedom in those days.