

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.50
Date of interview:	25 November 2003

Personal details pre 1953

Interviewee (complete separate form for co-interviewee if also resident in Radley pre 1953):	HEATHER CALVERT-FISHER
Date of birth:	1928 (born in Oxford)
Date came to Radley (if different):	
Address in 1930s/1940s:	Initially, Old Quarry, Headington; then Sutton Courtenay; then in 1932 to St. Peter's Road in Abingdon (into last house then being built in road).
Other family information:	Sister, Maureen (born 1932, died 1999). Married 1956.

Education

Schools/colleges attended:	St. Helen's kindergarten, then St. Helen's 'proper' school. Left school aged 17.
Other information about education:	Many of the teachers were nuns.

Work

Occupation and place of work of father:	Father worked for William Morris.
Occupation and place of work of mother:	
Occupation and place of work of interviewee in 1930s/40s (if any):	After school, trained as a nurse in Oxford (~1947–1951). Wards then kept very much cleaner than they are today (some wards nowadays 'are filthy'); then there was real pride in the wards. Training included participation in 'ward prayers'. Strict discipline in nurses' home; hardly 'allowed out'. Worked as nurse in Oxford, Leamington Spa, Weymouth, Dorchester, London (East End), Abingdon (Warren Hospital), Abingdon (Marcham Road), Oxford (Churchill and John Radcliffe); then as community midwife in Abingdon.
Information about farm work and farms:	Mentioned 'Taylors' farm' at Peachcroft (access from White's Lane).
Other information about what jobs people were doing:	

Travel

Mode of travel to school:	Cycled (sometimes walked).
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Mode of travel to work (interviewee and parents):	
Any comments about the station and use of the train:	
Any other comments about travel including, including car use and ownership:	
Buildings - location and characteristics	
Location of interviewee's home:	Has lived in house Holland Road since 1957/58, when bought for £4500.
Any comments on size, numbers of rooms, sharing, outside loos, source of water, electricity and telephone services etc. of interviewee's home:	
Any comments on location and characteristics of other buildings in Radley including dwellings, shops, village hall, barns, laundries etc:	Mentioned the 'suntrap houses', close to or at where plant nursery on Radley Road used to be. Mentioned a Radley College laundry on Foxborough Road. Badcock's house (big 3-storey house near Bowyer Arms) was called 'Nuneham View'. Thought Lower Radley hadn't changed much, except all houses enlarged and modernised.
Services and pastimes (excluding education and travel covered above)	
Comments about shopping including retail deliveries:	
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:	Sometimes played at Greening's farm. Walked and cycled along river towpath; swam in river (aged ~10, with other children, no supervising adults). Used to swim (amongst river traffic!) from old quay at Abingdon Ferry Boat Field [not exactly clear where this was, @15:40] downstream to Abingdon lock.
Comments on religion, church and choir:	Attended Radley Church on Sundays (and sometimes giggled at the back during services); church usually ~half full. Played organ at Sunday School (just after lunch). Felt very much that Radley Church was 'the family' church. In later years, Rev. Brutton's sermons very popular.
Miscellaneous	
Any comments about Radley people not covered elsewhere:	Names of Radley families mentioned: Greenings (Church Farm), Frearsons, Badcocks.
Comments about Radley College, its way of operating and relations with the village:	

<p>Comments on Coronation and Jubilee events:</p>	
<p>Any information on impact of WW2 in Radley and about wartime activities:</p>	
<p>Record here any other interesting items not covered above and general observations on life in those days:</p>	<p>On balance, childhoods were probably better then than now. Greater dispersion of families nowadays a significant disadvantage, especially when looking after a new-born baby.</p>