

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.158
Date of interview:	06-Mar-20

Personal details pre 1953

Interviewee (complete separate form for co-interviewee if also resident in Radley pre 1953):	KEITH MATTINGLEY
Date of birth:	1946
Date came to Radley (if different):	Around 1947/8
Address in 1930s/1940s:	75 Lower Radley (on corner going down to boathouse)
Other family information:	Born in Magdalen Road Oxford. Parents were Victor and May. One sister.

Education

Schools/colleges attended:	Radley Primary school. Then Larkmead in Abingdon.
Other information about education:	Just the one room at Radley Primary School but with doors dividing it. Miss Cross was the head teacher supported by Miss Middleton who taught the infants. Probably about 30/40 children. Just one pot-bellied stove, all crowded round to try to keep warm. Outside toilets, just a bucket. Larkmead was a bit daunting at first as it was so big.

Work

Occupation and place of work of father:	Worked in trim shop at Morris's
Occupation and place of work of mother:	Waitress on Salters steamers
Occupation and place of work of interviewee in 1930s/40s (if any):	
Information about farm work and farms:	Worked on a farm for a couple of years aged 15. Very hard work. Carried 200 wt sacks on their back with Dick Frearson.
Other information about what jobs people were doing:	

Travel

Mode of travel to school:	Walked to Radley school. At Larkmead, council provided bikes to travel to school or a bus pass.
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:

There were two or three cars in Radley when he was young. His father had one.

Buildings - location and characteristics

Location of interviewee's home:
Any comments on size, numbers of rooms, sharing, outside loos, source of water, electricity and telephone services etc of interviewee's home:

75 Lower Radley (on corner going down to boathouse, then a bungalow)

The bungalow had a flushing toilet, one of the first down there. 3 bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, small toilet.

Any comments on location and characteristics of other buildings in Radley including dwellings, shops, village hall, barns, laundries etc:

His memory is that running water and sewerage didn't arrive in parts of Lower Radley until the 1960s.

Services and pastimes (excluding education and travel covered above)

Comments about shopping including retail deliveries:

Comments on health and health services:

Had a doctor by name of Dr Dyson. There was a maternity hospital opposite Norman Avenue on Radley Road.

Comments on play, pastimes and recreational activities - eg swimming in river, pub, clubs and societies, football, darts, guides:

Went to Abingdon, went to the pictures. And there was a youth club in Radley in the old village hall. And there were football and cricket teams.

Comments on religion, church and choir:

Only time he went to church was on Fridays at Radley primary school.

Miscellaneous

Any comments about Radley people not covered elsewhere:

Francis Shepherd was a jack of all trades - television engineer, mechanic, welder. In the pub would drink everyone's pint apart from his own.

Comments about Radley College, its way of operating and relations with the village:
Comments on Coronation and Jubilee events:

For 1953 coronation, all the kids at Radley school went up to Radley College

Any information on impact of WW2 in Radley and about wartime activities:

Record here any other interesting items not covered above and general observations on life in those days:

Keith used to like all the open fields, everything's built on now.