

## 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.44
Date of interview:	12 October 2003

### Personal details pre 1953

Interviewee (complete separate form for co-interviewee if also resident in Radley pre 1953):	<b>MARY SHAYLER</b>
Date of birth:	1923 (in Suffolk)
Date came to Radley (if different):	When 3 weeks old
Address in 1930s/1940s:	Radley College, until 2 years old. Then in cottages at Thrupp Lane end of Foxborough Road until 1949, then, with husband, into newly built Stonhouse Crescent when daughter Anne was born. Remained in Stonhouse Crescent for 17 years, after which moved into house in Radley Road [Abingdon] with mother. Then when mother died moved to Selwyn Crescent in 1981.
Other family information:	

### Education

Schools/colleges attended:	Radley School, until age 12, and then went to school in Abingdon [not clear] until age 14, when left school.
Other information about education:	3 teachers for ~60 pupils at Radley School (one was a Miss Middleton). Enjoyed Radley School. Radley S. had small room [which became library?] for infants attached to main room.

### Work

Occupation and place of work of father:	Servitor, Radley College (Stone Social, as it was then). Was in Home Guard during WW2.
Occupation and place of work of mother:	Cook (for the masters, not the boys), Radley College.
Occupation and place of work of interviewee in 1930s/40s (if any):	First job (for four years): house parlour-maid for Radley College Bursar when he retired to Culham. Then during WW2, from 1941, worked at Wellworthy's shadow factory in Abingdon making pistons for aeroplane engines (incl. Merlin engine); 12 hour shifts.
Information about farm work and farms:	
Other information about what jobs people were doing:	Husband Reg worked in accounts for Electricity Board; initially Wessex Electric, then Southern Electric, ending up at Yarnton.

### Travel

Mode of travel to school:	
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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:

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:

No mains electricity in 1920s/1930s.

In 1920s / early 1930s remembers 'old village' (i.e. Lower Radley), council houses where post office finally was, station house, Bowyer Arms, but then there was nothing until her cottage up Foxborough Road near Thrupp Lane, and then (going towards Abingdon) nothing after Thrupp Lane until Wick Hall Lodge, and then nothing until the Warren. In 1920s / early 1930s was shop in Bakers Close, and a bakery, until bakery moved to Thrupp Lane. Bakery at Thrupp Lane changed hands several times.  
Was gravel pit bounded by Foxborough Road and White's Lane (and during WW2 a boy drowned in it (father was Austrian master at Radley College who was interned during WW2)).

### 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 - eg swimming in river, pub, clubs and societies, football, darts, guides:

Comments on religion, church and choir:

Football field was where Stonhouse Crescent was built, and football field then moved to where Selwyn Crescent is now. And before that there was dairy farm (Badcock) where Selwyn Crescent now is.

Because attended a C of E school, attended church on Saints' Days. Used to be Sunday School treat 'up in the woods'. Vicars remembered: Jackson (at school), Daly Briscoe, Heriz-Smith, Brutton (who was very popular and filled the church). Remembered decorated church for Harvest Festival, and services in fields on Rogation Sundays.  
Husband Reg joined choir in St. Helen's (Abingdon) when he was 8; then after married was in Radley church choir.

### Miscellaneous

<p>Any comments about Radley people not covered elsewhere:</p>	<p>Farmer when interviewee was at Radley School was a Mr Greening, lived opposite church. Remembers a farmer Taylor at Peachcroft.</p>
<p>Comments about Radley College, its way of operating and relations with the village:</p>	
<p>Comments on Coronation and Jubilee events:</p>	<p>Remembers George V Jubilee, for which they all dressed up for pageant. Remembers celebrating Empire Day. Remembers Edward VIII's abdication — 'was big news'.</p>
<p>Any information on impact of WW2 in Radley and about wartime activities:</p>	<p>Remembers sky over Abingdon full of aeroplanes and gliders on D-Day. and remembers seeing thousand-bomber raids.</p>
<p>Record here any other interesting items not covered above and general observations on life in those days:</p>	<p>Father had crystal set radio, then valve radio with an accumulator that had to be repeatedly charged (no mains electricity). In these days children didn't get into mischief; they knew the boundaries of good behaviour.</p>