

Interview with Mavis Humphrey (born 1935)

On 10th October 2024

The Telephone Exchange, Vernon House, West Street (run by her father)

The Sweet Shop, West Street (run by her mother)



00:40	Mavis' Father runs the telephone exchange	Originally from Kent, army, family lived in a cottage in West Street
01:25	Mavis' Mother Runs the tobacco and sweet shop on West Street	From the age of 16 (!) from her grandparents' front room! (until 1975)
02:49	Telephone Exchange in Vernon House	35 telephones in the village before the war
03:30		Impact of the war: work increases, more telephone lines needed
05:08		Impact on family live: the family lived in the room where the exchange was, by the fire, dining table in there (so as to enable the father to be with the family whilst doing his job)
05:25		Patterns of calls during the day: farmers from 5am in the morning, business calls rest of the morning, cheap time between 6pm-10pm Father had to work nights too
06:52		Technicalities around the exchange and the payment system
08:23		Impact on family live (again): father could never go out, friends came to their house instead
09:35		End: 'subscriber dialling' came in and telephone exchange became obsolete Father dies before retiring (age 64)
11:55	Hambledon School	Different teachers mentioned Head Teacher, Mr Brownings (used his cane on the boys)
		Teaching across year groups, strong discipline, Stove, milk bottles near it in the winter to keep milk from freezing
15:13	Cowplain School	Explains curriculum and the school bus
17:00	Bus Depot	6 buses in the village

		Mr Stanley (cleans the buses every night)
		All drivers and conductors are local/from Hambledon (only 1 has a car, lives in World's End)
18:42	Felt safe on the bus	Dancing in South sea, back on the bus, conductors knew her, dropped her off outside her house
19:08	'conductors were good gate keepers)	People from Portsmouth came up to Hambledon in the summer with pic nics Again: conductors 'checked them out'
19:50	Felt safe in the village	'We were feral children'
	War years	Rush home when sirens went off
22:03		Evacuees from Gothport (challenges)
		Evacuees from London (stayed in the big houses, sometimes entire families in one room)
24:00	Importance of the church	Mavis gets married in the church at 26
		Sunday school from 3-4
		Helps vicar's wife to teach Sunday School Children (Mrs Champian)
		Teaches Sunday School in the village hall with Grace Langtry
		Bell ringing
		choir
25:28	You DID NOT have to sit at home in the village 😊	Big houses allowed the youths to use their tennis courts (e.g. Lady Taylor) – every afternoon from Mon-Friday
		Jonas Hall (@ Hill House) took guides, did bell ringing (did a lot for the village)
27:00		Brownies was held in the garden room at the 2 elderly Miss Willsons. Kind of them, but Mavis was scared of the walk home without street lights
		Later meetings in the upstairs lounge @ Joan Hall's
28:26	Chapel	In the summer, a charismatic gentleman, Mr Bush, came to preach. Mavis and Maisy Watson wanted to attend. Her parents stopped her ('you do not darken the doors of the Chapel')
29:51	Sunday School outing	Hayling Island, the only trip to the seaside in the year. Often cold, they went whatever the weather, Had to climb off the coach before crossing a little bridge to lighten the load Remembers 'sand-sandwiches' (tomato sandwiches in the summer) Sill barbed wire in the sea from the war
31:50	Story of Mavis' husband David Humphrey	His family came down from Chester, started farming. David goes to boarding school, then works at his father's farm. Mavis and David meet at Maisy's 21 st birthday party in the George
35:25		David becomes the milk man in the village (from 1962)
		Subsequently runs a dairy in Fareham
38:25	Ties with Hambledon church	The couple always comes back to Hambledon church David becomes church warden (Vicar Richard Brand) & sides man, they attend evensong and Wednesday morning services. The church played a big part in their lives.

