

Voices of Hickling

Interview Transcript: Harry Nudd



Interviewed by Ann Louise Kinmonth on 6th September 2013

HN: Harry Arthur Nudd

ALK: *So can we start with you growing up. Where were you born?*

HN: I was born down Stubb Mill.

ALK: *What was that like?*

HN: It was alright, it was alright. I mean that was, that was in the forties so I can't remember much about it, but.....

ALK: *No. Who was there?*

HN: Er, my brother he was still at home, my sister wasn't born then, she wasn't born until 1944.

ALK: *Is that when your sister was born or when you were born?*

HN: No, I was born in 1940.

ALK: *1940. And what were your mum and dad doing?*

HN: My father he used to, he, he worked for the Drainage Board

ALK: *Yes, yeah.*

HN: Took down the pump, he took down the pump, when he was twenty one I think it was, when he took it over.

ALK: *And that wasn't electric then was it?*

HN: No. We didn't have electric, not till 1960.

ALK: *Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.*

HN: That was actually 1961. I got it for my 21st birthday.

ALK: *Was it? Was it? You got that for your 21st birthday.*

HN: Yeah. HARRY LAUGHS.

ALK: *Electric down the mill.*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *Yeah. And did you just look after the mill, or did you have animals around there as well, on the marsh?*

HN: Er, father used to look after some of the farmer's cattle and that, what he....

ALK: *Yeah.*

HN: ... he's had. My father, he used to have some cows and pigs and that, but I can't really remember them though.

ALK: *Were your grandparents there as well?*

HN: Errrr.

ALK: *Or was it just you and your older brother and then your younger sister when she came along?*

HN: No, my grandparents, I can't remember them living there.

No.

HN: No, 'cos they, I think my grandfather, mother, my father's mother went to Ingham, with my brother's, with my father's sister.

I can't remember them living down there 'cos we moved into the house, father was the first, actually dad was the first one to be born in the house I think.

ALK: *Is that right?*

HN: The house was built in 1900.

ALK: *Yes, yeah. I always thought it was a lovely little house that.*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *Nobody living there now?*

HN: No, that's falling down a bit now.

ALK: *Yeah, it's a pity really.*

HN: They say they're going to do it up, but I don't know.

ALK: *And the mill was working then, when you were a child?*

HN: No. The sails fell off, 1930.

ALK: *Is that right?*

HN: Yeah, dead calm when they fell off. The casting holding them up broke.

ALK: *Yeah, yeah. So how was the pump done?*

HN: We had a steam engine on for 10 years. We had a traction engine down there in 1930 and that went away in 1940, when they had put a diesel pump down.

ALK: *So when that flood came in that was the steam pump you were using to try and stop it?*

HN: Yeah, yeah. In, in 1938, yeah.

ALK: *Why was it all frothy? I've seen some photographs, it all seems to be very frothy.*

HN: That's, er, that's the salt water.

ALK: *Oh, salt water was coming in.*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *I see.*

HN: 'Cos there's a certain amount of salt water before they got the wall finished (?), ---- sandbagging, 'cos there's one house down the ----- (?) what got flooded, one house, that was one what David Platten used to live in.

ALK: *Oh, I saw him today. Yeah, told him you were ahead of him.*

HN: Oh Yeah. BOTH LAUGH. Yeah, that was only flooded a day or two till they, till they got the pump going, they got steam up and got the pump, got the steam engine going.

ALK: *But you don't remember that flood do you?*

HN: No.

ALK: *You'd remember the next one.*

HN: Yeah, I was born in 1940.

ALK: *So there was one in '53.*

HN: Yeah, but that didn't come our way, that went Ingham way.....

ALK: *Ah, I see.*

HN: but eventually the water, 'cos actually the pumps in our area actually draw water all the way from Ingham.

ALK: *So, they're lifting the water off the fields, into the dyke, and that's going, where's that going?*

HN: That's going into Meadow dyke and then into Heigham Sound and then Horsey Mere, Hickling Broad and then out, finally go out to Yarmouth.

ALK: *Yeah, so it goes out into Meadow Dyke from there?*

HN: Yeah. Yeah, from our pump, yeah.

ALK: *Just above Cadbury's or ...*

HN: No, it's about half way between Heigham Sound and Horsey Mere.

ALK: *Oh, right up there.*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *That's a long dyke then, and it's going through.*

HN: **Yeah, the dyke is what.... half a mile I suppose to get into Horsey Mere, 'er, to get into Meadow Dyke.**

ALK: *And how long did you live in that little house?*

HN: **Er, 1973 I suppose it was.**

ALK: *I suppose it would be better if I said how old were you when you left that house? Would that be easier?*

HN: **Er, that would be when I first met Hazel, when I**

ALK: *Was it? Oh, getting ----- (?). So you lived there till you were 30s, ...*

HN: **Yeah.**

ALK: *..... in your 30s.*

HN: **Yeah.**

ALK: *And you were looking after the pump all that time? (5.20)*

HN: **No. I, I took the pump over when, after my father died.**

ALK: *Yes.*

HN: **But I did had one, I had about six, six or seven weeks when father was laid up there, I looked after it.**

ALK: *Yeah.*

HN: **When I was about, er, about 20-ish that was. I was looking after two pumps then , e, e, Eastfield pump and Stubb Mill, we had both of 'em we used to look after.**

ALK: *And what did you do the rest of your time?*

HN: **I used to work on the farm, I done 44 years on the farm.**

ALK: *Whose farm were you working on then?*

HN: **Harry Brackston's, down Eastfield. I done 44 years down there.**

ALK: *Did you?*

HN: **I got, when Peter died we had to cut the staff down so I took redundancy when I started on my own.**

ALK: *Did you? And did you do mainly potatoes and sugar beet, or*

HN: **No I was mainly cowman, bullock feeder, horses.**

ALK: *Animals, yeah....*

HN: **Yeah.**

ALK: *..... and that was horses that were working?*

HN: Yeah, yeah, we had horses that we used to cut corn and that with.

ALK: *How long did that go on for, with the horses?*

HN: Er, we had, we had a tractor too, Harry Brackston, he used to do all the drilling with the horses but 3 or 4 years I suppose till we, till we got more machinery on there.

ALK: *Yeah, where did you keep the horses?*

HN: In the stables round the farmyard. They had two, two colts they were. One of them we had to break in, when we were down there, when I was down there.

ALK: *Did you miss the horses when they went?*

HN: Mmm, I didn't really have much to do with them, only the tractor when they hauled sugar beet and that or that when they wanted two on, or drag raking them down, but I didn't really do much.

ALK: *So when you were working there what was the usual day like? What time did you get up and that kind of thing?*

HN: Hmm, you start, when I was doing the cows I used to get up about 4 o' clock in the morning.

ALK: *Did you?*

HN: Sometimes I never went to bed.

ALK: *ALK LAUGHS Really?*

HN: Well when I, I used to play darts I

ALK: *A young man. Was that in the Pleasure Boat or in the Greyhound?*

HN: No, I'd play, I used to play at Hickling Bull.

ALK: *Oh the Bull, before it became the old peoples' home.*

HN: Yeah. I played there and when that shut down I went down the Pleasure Boat.

ALK: *Yeah.*

HN: I played with ----- (?) Lion and teams in Yarmouth, I've been playing darts over fifty odd years.

ALK: *Got a good eye for the darts.*

HN: Yes, I got I dunno fifty or sixty trophies at home.

ALK: *Have you?*

HN: Yeah, I mean, actually when I was playing in them days I was playing about seven nights a week.

ALK: *Were you?*

HN: Yeah, 'cos the beer was that cheap in them days.

ALK: Yes. ALK LAUGH. Which of your relatives was it that lived in that kind of wooden shed just down here?

HN: Err, I don't think you go back far enough, that was Mate Nudd.

ALK: *It was, it was.*

HN: But he ain't, I don't know what relation, you had to go back so far to get into Nudd.

ALK: *Yeah.*

HN: Because that's a different family of Nudds.

ALK: *Because the name is very Norfolk and*

HN: Yeah. See, 'cos there's two or three families of Nudds in the village.

ALK: *Yeah, well it just made me think of it because as a child I, every night he'd come back from the pub. BOTH LAUGH Walk down here*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *Oh, there's Mate going back, and I think my uncle got him a new shed.*

HN: Oh yeah.

ALK: *Ian Phillips, I think he got him a*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *When his shed was falling down.*

HN: Yeah, there's Chrissie (?) Nudd. That's a different family of Nudds.

ALK: *A different family.*

HN: Gerald Nudd, that's a different family.

ALK: *Yeah.*

HN: Oh he's, he's a relation. His father married, or his brother married my father's sister. So that's, that's, they come from Horsey.

ALK: *Okay.*

HN: That's Nudds from Horsey that was. ----- (?) Nudd who do the cobbles and that at Horsey, he's, and that's that family.

ALK: *It's a big family isn't it? Quite an extended family there.*

HN: Yes, Josh, Jack, Charlie, they were all brothers they were.

Yeah, yeah. Well, so we've got you not going to bed, playing darts, and getting up at 4 o'clock in the morning for the cows. How did the day go on?

HN: When I was in the cows I used to come home about 9 and then go back in the afternoon.

ALK: Yes, how many cows had you got?

HN: We had about 30 odd when

ALK: That was quite busy.

HN: Yeah, when, when I, actually I was relief cow man, that was just weekends mainly apart from when David he, he committed suicide and that, so they....

ALK: Oh! Oh dear.

HN: Yeah, he hung hisself in his shed.

ALK: Why was that? Miserable?

HN: I don't know, his father died, and then a few wee..., a few days afterwards he done hisself in in the shed. We were all, that was one Saturday, they rang me up, no, I used to go in Saturdays, I didn't have no, I had to go in, do the milking and that, go looking for him.

ALK: Did you find him?

HN: No, actually I think James Perry did. Found him hanging in the shed at home, down the bottom of the garden.

ALK: Really, yeah.

HN: So I was about 7 weeks then, I think, with the cows, 7 days a week.

ALK: What a story. Well, let's go back from there. What about when you were at school? Where did you go to school?

HN: Went to Hickling school, used to walk there when I first started school. Used to walk, or on, or on my mother's bike.

ALK: Yes.

HN: Then, then my brother had a bike and I, eventually started to ride a bike so I used to bike up then.

ALK: When did you get your first bike? Can you remember?

HN: I must have been 5 or 6.

ALK: And you'd go together?

HN: Yeah I, mother used to go

ALK: *Mother used to take you.*

HN: Used to come up and brother used to come with

ALK: *What kind of mum was she? Was she strict or did she let you go?*

HN: No, she weren't, she weren't that strict. She weren't too bad, I mean that's just, just a limit you could do, I didn't have to go much, didn't actually go out much at all, in the garden.

ALK: *And was she the person who kept you in line or was that your dad? Did anybody wallop you?*

HN: No not really.

ALK: *No.*

HN: I can't remember if they did or not.

ALK: *No. But, er, you knew what was what?*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *Yes.*

HN: ----- (?) after my brother, he's eight years older than me.

ALK: *Eight years older.*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *Yeah, yeah. So he took the brunt of it maybe? They let the younger ones.*
HARRY LAUGHS

HN: My sister's four years younger than me. She was.

ALK: *So you went to Hickling school.*

HN: Yeah, and then to Stalham.

ALK: *And then to Stalham, And how'd you get to Stalham?*

HN: Bike.

ALK: *Yeah. How long did that take you?*

HN: Half hour I suppose. That's three, five mile.

ALK: *What was it like as a school, Stalham?*

HN: It was alright, headmaster was a, Smith then. He was alright, we used to go down and do his garden sometimes. He

ALK: *Did you make friends there for life or.....?*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *Yeah. Who was in your class there?*

HN: Oh, I forget now, who was in there now.

ALK: *Anybody still alive now that you see?*

HN: **Yeah, some that they live on, there's no-one, not from this area, in my class.**

ALK: *No, no.*

HN: **I see one or two of them now occasionally, in Tesco's and that.**

ALK: *Yeah, yeah, well it's a long time ago.*

HN: **Yeah, I mean I left when I was 15, when I left school.**

ALK: *Did you? And you went straight then into working on the farm.*

HN: **Um, no, not straight away. I went with Jack Payne.**

ALK: *Oh, did you?*

HN: **I went with him, building, doing some building work.**

ALK: *Some building.*

HN: **I worked with Lester Applegate getting his chickens in for a few weeks and that till I, till I eventually went on the farm.**

ALK: *Did you travel at all or did you stay in Hickling?*

HN: **No, I stayed in. Only when I've been, since we've been married I went abroad. When we got married, apart from that that's the only time we've been abroad.**

ALK: *Was that for your honeymoon?*

HN: **Yeah.**

Where did you go?

HN: **Denmark.**

ALK: *Did you?*

HN: **Mmm.**

ALK: *And otherwise what's the furthest you've been round England?*

HN: **Er, I dunno, we've been on holiday, we've been to I forgot the places we've been to now.**

ALK: *But generally quite close at hand, or go up to Scotland, across to Wales or....?*

HN: **Yeah, I think we went to Wales, yeah, we went to Wales.**

ALK: *Huh, I'm getting the feeling that it's not your favourite thing, travelling*

HN: No, I aren't, er....

ALK: *You like it here?*

HN: Yeah,

ALK: *Yeah, this is your place?*

HN: Yeah, I mean I

ALK: *Yeah.*

HN: We have been travelling a bit but, just get away. Since I've been on my own just get away from the telephone. HARRY LAUGHS.

ALK: *Yes, yes.*

HN: So people don't keep ringing on me up. BOTH LAUGH.

ALK: *Well that's great. So now I want to move to thinking about whether you remember anything about the war or not.*

HN: Not much. I know we had, we had bombs falling round, round, er, the house when I was born, there was bombs on the marshes and that.

ALK: *Were there?*

HN: 'Cos actually I they think they thought they were bombing Yarmouth.

ALK: *Did they?*

HN: That's what my father said, my father he was in the Home Guard.

ALK: *Yes, yes.*

HN: We had, there was one aeroplane come down in one of the fields down Stubb Road.

Yeah.

HN: I can't really remember that.

Yeah. What do, what's your first memory do you think? What are the first things you remember? Yourself, rather than what you've been told you know.

HN: I can't really remember much about the war at all, I know they told me there was a piece of shrapnel, actually I've still got it, a piece of shrapnel from one of the bombs that went through the bedroom window.

That didn't go through the, not through glass, it went through the woodwork.

ALK: *Yes, blimey.*

HN: That was a piece about 6 inches.

ALK: *Into your bedroom?*

HN: Er, not into my, into mother and father's bedroom.

ALK: *Blimey, yeah. But you were how old then, I mean you were young?*

HN: Yeah, see.....

ALK: *Five, five or six.*

HN: Yeah, the war finished in 1944.

ALK: *Well, a bit later than that.*

HN: '45.

ALK: *So you were only 4 or 5.*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *Thinking now about your health, were you thought to be a healthy child when you were a boy?*

HN: Yeah, I hardly went to the doctors at all. No, I never do now, hardly go to the doctors, never have been.

ALK: *And what about this fish hook thing?*

HN: Oh yeah, I was fishing in, at home I got a fish hook in that finger. Dad had one of these carriers on the front of his bike, he put me on that and we went to Ludham to get it out 'cos that's where the doctor, main doctor was there, at Ludham.

That was Gabriel I think, no Woodman, Woodman I think, the first one was, yeah. That had catgut on, about an inch long, sticking out of my finger.

ALK: *Do you remember that?*

HN: I remember that, yeah.

ALK: *How old were you then.*

HN: 5 or 6 I suppose.

ALK: *5 or 6. Do you remember how they got it out?*

HN: Yeah, just got it out with a pair of tweezers, something that twisted it out.

ALK: *Yeah. Were you a fisherman? Did you do a lot of fishing?*

HN: I used to when I was at home 'cos there was a lot of fish in the, in the basin at home there. You

ALK: *Did you fish for pike there or for?*

HN: Yeah, there had been, used to be pike in there.

ALK: *Yeah.*

HN: You could see the fish swimming about in there.
You can't, not now though.

ALK: *When did the water go murky like that?*

HN: Er, about four year ago when they started doing all the, when they started dredging down on the, on the Trust, when they started doing the digs down too deep and they break the bottom up, that's when ...

ALK: *That's what Steve Aldred says as well.*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *Break the bottom.*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *Yeah, and what's that, why does it make it like that?*

HN: That's the sulphur in the ground what come out.

ALK: *Right, right.*

HN: I mean, during the summer, now sometimes, that's bright orange down there.

ALK: *That is, isn't it. I don't understand that.*

HN: That is the stuff what, if you go too deep that's in the ground.

ALK: *Is it?*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *Not iron then?*

HN: No, it ain't iron, that's a sulphur sort of stuff, yeah.

ALK: *There's other opinions in the room.*

HN: Yeah, Ha ha. Yeah, but

ALK: *No, but I'm interested in what you think.*

HN: Well I mean, Waxham Cut is just the same. That's like that all the year round, Waxham Cut is.

ALK: *Yes, yes.*

HN: That's a basin that never used to, not till they started a

ALK: *It's a pity isn't it. I was going up Catfield Dyke the other morning early and I was thinking it used to be clear.*

HN: All the Broad used to be. In the fifties you could see anything.

ALK: Well, my parents used to swim in the Broad.

HN: Yeah, I know and 'er.

ALK: *It was clear.*

HN: Down the Dipping Place, down John Tallowin's Dipping Place.

ALK: *Yeah, there was, yeah*

HN: I mean I, I used to be in the sailing club, I joined the sailing club 1955 and you could see anything about on the bottom.

ALK: *Yeah.*

HN: Actually I had picked outboards up off the Broad.

ALK: *Yeah, you could pick a coin out. Absolutely.*

HN: Now you can't see not, you can't see the bottom, not now. That all went, started to go when they dredged Horsey Mere.

ALK: *That's what I heard, it went brackish.*

HN: Yeah. When they, when they dredged Horsey Mere that's when we started to get the trouble down here.

ALK: *Yeah. Very interesting. You're doing well. So, you never remember going to the doctor at all except to have your fish hook out*

HN: No, I used to go if I had, can't remember going that much.

ALK: *No, no. And did any, were you ever very ill at home or were your brother or sister ill at home? Was there ever any worry that someone might die ,,,?*

HN: No.

ALK: *.... as a child.*

HN: No, no. I had chickenpox and that, but apart from that I didn't have nothing, no.

ALK: *Didn't have the measles?*

HN: Yeah, I think I did.

ALK: *Yeah, mumps?*

HN: I mean I, can't remember having mumps, I don't....

ALK: *Measles and chickenpox.*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *Yeah. But it wasn't, being ill, you don't have big memories, you didn't keep breaking bits of yourself?*

HN: No, I don't think I ever, only my toe, I don't know what I, oh yeah, and my nose. I had a, that's when I was in the cows, cows tail come across and broke my nose, that's why it ain't very straight.

ALK: *Aha. Why, how did it get broken, I didn't understand?*

HN: With a cow's tail, when I was milking and the cow's tail, flapping about come round and caught me across the face.

ALK: *With its foot or with its?*

HN: No.

ALK: *With its nose?*

HN: No, its tail.

ALK: *Still not getting it, I'm sorry. What am I....?*

Hazel: *Its tail.*

ALK: *Its tail, yeah, I heard it and I couldn't believe it. Its tail?*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *I never thought you could break a nose with a tail.*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *He's telling me the tale, can you really break a nose with a tail?*

HN: Yeah, they are about two inches thick. And they're hard if they

ALK: *Yeah, yeah, they're like ox tail.*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *What you have in the soup, absolutely. So, have you got any other stories that you want to tell me about? What it's like growing up in Hickling and being in Hickling.*

HN: It was 1947 when we had lots of snows about.

ALK: *Yeah.*

HN: Actually walking down Stubb Road from Youngman's Corner and that was about 7 foot deep, and the council come clearing the road down from the village. About 5 or 6 of them they cleared the road, and father, he dug all the way from our house up to Youngman's Corner on his own.

ALK: *Wow.*

HN: Just digging a track so we could get out.

ALK: *Wow.*

HN: And they couldn't make out, these people that come down the way couldn't make out why they see snow keep going up in the air. They couldn't, had metal spades, my father had a wooden, a wooden one, the snow would just come off of that.

ALK: *Instead of freezing on.*

HN: Yeah.

PHONE RINGS

ALK: *We're not going to be answering that.*

HN: No. *HARRY LAUGHS.* No, I mean I used to walk about on the snow when father was digging it out, to get, so we could get out.

ALK: *Yes. I didn't know that, about a wooden spade. That's interesting.*

HN: Yeah, yeah, that's what they used, they called them ..., they used to have a piece of leather on the bottom of them for mud, sort of things and that. This was just an ordinary plain one with a metal piece on the bottom for cutting, you could chuck any stuff anywhere with that.

ALK: *Yeah, fantastic.*

HN: 'Cos nothing would stick on wood.

ALK: *Exactly, it's obvious when you say.*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *That's a good story.*

HN: I learnt to skate on Joe Chapman's marsh down there in, that'd be '47. Used to get, if you went through you'd get in the water 'cos that, that was just about all ice.

Was that at Chapman's?

HN: Yeah, yeah. Down from where I lived, on one of them marshes down there.

ALK: *Yeah, I know. It's called that now isn't it, or is that somewhere else?*

HN: No it's been Chapman's since, the Trust have got it now. And, em, you used to have rushes and that, you used to skate round the rushes.

ALK: *Did you often skate on the Broad?*

HN: I ain't done skating lately, I used to. I mean you...

ALK: *Have you still got your skates?*

HN: Yeah. Still got 'em at home. I don't, can't remember the last time I did skate, offhand now. I know the last time or two there weren't enough ice, not to skate on. Some people went on but that was a bit risky.

ALK: *Yeah.*

HN: But I remember my brother before I learnt to skate, we had some wooden ones, wooden skates....

ALK: *Really, yeah.*

HN: And they screwed one on the bottom of a stool, and they used to push me about on that. *ALK LAUGHS.* I used to, pushed me round before I started to learn to skate.

ALK: *That's nice. Yeah, yeah. So they, they were cold winters then. 'Cos somebody took a car on the ice once didn't they?*

HN: Yeah, I think they did, yeah. So they say, but I can't remember it.

ALK: *No.*

HN: I mean I know when the last time I was skating on the Broad there was snow and ice and Bernie Ellis, he had a water pump to the, put a water pump on there to pump some water on top on it.

Yeah.

HN: But that didn't, there was that much force coming out of the, out of the pipe that went straight through the ice.

ALK: *And broke it?*

HN: Yeah. *ALK LAUGHS*

ALK: *Opposite effect.*

HN: Yeah. Yeah, 'cos the snow ice that was very rough, you couldn't skate on it, not on snow ice.

ALK: *It was a good idea.*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *Yeah.*

HN: You had to treat it ----- (?) If you put it on -----(?) so the pressure was just dripping on it ain't so bad.

ALK: *Yes.*

HN: If you get a pump with a two inch pipe pumping water out there's a lot of force coming out there.

ALK: *That is. Yes.*

HN: Yeah, I've been skating on there till 10, 11 o'clock at night with Tilley lamps and that used to

ALK: *Lovely, romantic.*

HN: Yeah, I've been with Dave Platten and them, used to be skating on there, Peter Fisher – oh, he's gone now. Yes, a few years ago that is.

ALK: *Some time ago.*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *So, coming up to date the last thing I wanted to ask about was using the health service now, now that you're an older person and what it's like – whether it's good, bad, indifferent? What's it like?*

HN: I mean I found it's hard to say 'cos it's all, mine's actually all private so...

ALK: *Right.*

HN: Yeah, I belong to BUPA and that so that's private so I've had good care and that, but apart from that I never have been in hospital. I mean when I went to the doctor that time he said you hardly come to us, he ain't got a lot of records for me, 'cos I never used to go.

ALK: *Yeah, yeah.*

HN: Actually when I went in this time that weren't through the doctor that weren't.

ALK: *Wasn't it?*

HN: No.

ALK: *How did that work out?*

HN: I picked it up, they picked it up on these test cards.

ALK: *Oh really. Came through the post?*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *And you did it?*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *Lots of people chuck that away.*

HN: Yeah, no I

ALK: *But you did it.*

HN: No I

ALK: *Why did you do it.? Why didn't you just?*

HN: I always do anything like that.

ALK: *You do that.*

HN: I mean I

ALK: *And you picked it up on that card?*

HN: **Yeah, I picked it up. They sent me one and they**

ALK: *That's good isn't it?*

HN: **That one, then they sent another one out and next thing I knew was up the hospital and that.**

ALK: *But that was, that bit is National Health Service, that bit.*

HN: **Yeah, yeah.**

ALK: *How did you make that decision that you weren't going to stay in the National Health Service?*

HN: **When I was on the farm we took insurance out, when I was working on the farm.**

ALK: *So you made the decision then really?*

HN: **Yeah, and that would be about '75 I suppose. '77,'5, '77 something like that .**

Hazel: *It was a year or so after we got married, '77*

ALK: *Well that's true. When you're on the farm you can't afford to be waiting around*

HN: **No.**

Hazel: *The National Health Service was very different to what it is today.*

ALK: *Yes, for sure. Especially out here*

Hazel: *Long waiting lists.*

ALK: *Yes, absolutely. No, I remember it only too well. Yes, no, all the farmers I knew did the same because it was their livelihood, couldn't, couldn't afford to wait.*

HN: **No, I mean....**

ALK: *Yeah.*

HN: **..... we had it, first time I used it was when I had an ulcer on my ankle that wouldn't heal. Actually I got kicked by a cow and it damaged one of the veins up here.**

ALK: *Yes.*

HN: **And we was working on, when I started on me own I had an ulcer come, and that wouldn't heal up. So Nurse Hanley, she sent me to hospital like that. Yeah.**

ALK: *Was that the district nurse?*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: Yeah

HN: 'Cos they used, they was bandaging up every day. Every day, or every other day I was going up the surgery. I had seven, seven bandages on my leg there once.

ALK: *That would have been National Health though.*

HN: Yeah, that, yeah.

ALK: *And where, where was that? Was that Stalham or?*

HN: Er, yeah that was Stalham then, Stalham or Ludham, 'cos they were both the same.

ALK: Yes, exactly.

HN: Yeah I mean that one was Stalham and Ludham had the one when I first, when I first -----(?) there weren't one in Stalham. There used to be one come, there used to be a doctor come into the village.

ALK: *What here, in Hickling?*

HN: Yeah. In, in the

ALK: *Where'd he go to?*

HN: In, in where the rest homes are.

ALK: Yes.

HN: In, um, not the long line, the other two, the other two that are separate, that used to be the surgery.

ALK: *Oh. I didn't know that.*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *When did they stop doing that? Like a branch surgery, yeah.*

HN: Yeah.

ALK: *That was convenient then.*

Hazel: *They used to come out two afternoons.*

HN: Then Doctor Gay, no, Edwards, he opened one in Stalham Green near his house and that was when, that was when, that was a bigger branch then at Ludham. That was Gabriel, Dr. Gabriel, he's in then, and then they opened this other new one up. They built a new one 'cos that use to be in the house, in his house at Ludham originally, where, Savage, I suppose live in the doctor's house, further down from where the new one is now, further down you used to go to.

ALK: *Was Dr. Jarvis part of that practice, or was he....?*

HN: **Yeah.**

ALK: *Yeah, he was, Black Bess.*

HN: **Yeah.**

ALK: *Well, thank you very much for that. Since we've got your lady here is there anything else you think I should be asking about?*

Hazel: *He didn't tell you about having to put a tractor on the mill in 1942.*

HN: **No.**

No.

HN: **Yeah when the, when the snow and that was about the pump couldn't, er, diesel pump couldn't cope with it so they had a Case (?) Tractor from ----(?) works on the -----(?) for 3 weeks, so they had the ----- (?) going and the pump.**

ALK: *And why was that exactly? Why couldn't the diesel pump cope?*

HN: **There was that much snow and that was all melting and that.**

ALK: *It was all melting at once?*

HN: **Yeah.**

ALK: *So, it was just a lot of water going through....?*

HN: **Yeah.**

ALK: *So, they had two engines going at it, the tractor engine.*

HN: **Yeah, and also one at Eastfield too, was going too.**

ALK: *Yeah.*

HN: **I mean you get snow drifts about 7 ft. tall over everywhere.**

ALK: *Yeah, yeah.*

HN: **If we didn't the village would have been flooded.**

ALK: *So a lot of your memories of extremity are in the winter.*

HN: **Yeah.**

ALK: *Yeah, it's a cold, old place in the winter.*

HN: **Yeah, I know 'cos I can remember sandbagging on Christmas Eve two or three times.**

ALK: *Yes, yeah.*

HN: When the, when the Broads had come up high, it used to come over the top of the sea wall, I went with father two or three times, when I was a youngster, used to go sandbagging.

ALK: Quite a tough life.

HN: Yeah.

ALK: Yeah, but you've enjoyed it?

HN: Yeah.

ALK: Yeah.

HN: Yeah, I ain't -----(?) it that much. Apart from now, that's the only time when I really been to the doctors and that much, and I mean that wasn't through the doc, that was all done through the hospital.

ALK: Yeah, yeah. The surgeon really.

HN: Yeah.

Hazel: What you haven't told, 'cos you took it for granted, was the way you lived down Stubb Road.

ALK: Yes.

Hazel: For it's time it was old fashioned.

HN: Yes.

ALK: Yes. I think I don't really know how to ask about that. I tried to ask but I don't think I asked very well. How would you ask about that?

Hazel: Well, what didn't you have that we have in our house now?

HN: Well, we didn't have running water or nothing. We just had a pump outside. Used to have the toilet in the shed outside.

Hazel: The first time I visited his house, when I was about 19, he said to me very discretely *If you need the toilet it's the old fashioned. It was basically a bucket under a wooden seat.*

ALK: Yes, I remember them too. Yeah, yeah. You have to go out with, what, you go out with a candle, or a Tilley Light or something at night?

HN: We used to have a torch or something to go out. The one that's there now is a newer one that was put in in '52, they put a new one. There was just a wooden place.

ALK: And what was the new one like, a new wooden place?

HN: No, that was actually bricks and that.

ALK: Oh, okay, okay. With a door and that?

HN: Yeah. Yeah, the other one had a door on but that was fallin' down and that. When, that was when the house was done up, when they, when they had to do a bit of work to the house when it started to subside on one corner.

ALK: Yeah, yeah.

HN: Used to have a well to get the water out on.