



Interview with Vic Howarth (#2 of 2)

James Victor ("Vic") Howarth ('VH'), born 30 March 1930, and his wife Patricia ("Pat") Mary Howarth ('PH')

Interviewers : Irini Tzortzoglou ('IT') & John Batty ('JB')

Date & Time : Saturday 6th February 2016 at 10.45 hrs

Location : Croft House, Priest Lane, Cartmel (Vic's house)

Recording duration : 50 mins 28 secs

[Recording starts with background chatter whilst JB is doing the Introduction]

JB Right, it's now the 6th of February, its just before 11 o'clock in the morning, and we are again in the house of Pat and Vic Howarth, Pat is here when we start this morning, she wasn't last time, and we're going to continue the interview that we started a week ago. What's the best way to do it, Irini ?

IT [..... unclear few words amongst background chatter] ... and Vic, we stopped somewhere last week around the time that you went to secondary school ... [JB : sorry, I'll just stop for a second], ... following that period, it was regards to your career, and any moves that you made, and how come you are back in Cartmel today.

VH OK. Well ... I went to secondary school, which was then Ulverston [1 min] Grammar School, from here, and I was there for I think seven years, to do the ... it was called School Certificate in those days, and Higher School Certificate, and I then went on ... I won a scholarship from Lancashire County Council to pay for me to go to university. But I went straight from school into the Royal Air Force, to do my two years National Service, in Germany it happened to be, I was finally posted todorf[?] in Germany. After I was demobbed from National Service, I went to University College, London, to do ... for a degree in physiology ... [2 mins] after which ... after I graduated, I remained as a demonstrator for a while in the ... two years or so, at University College, and then ... I married ... four years was it, well alright OK ... so I graduated at University College, and remained there for several years, four years apparently, as a kind of apprentice to A B Hill, who was then sort of doyen of muscle physiology, so I became a muscle physiologist. From there I moved on to the Marine Biological Laboratory at Plymouth ... because I had been working there as a visitor from time to time ... on [3 mins] matters concerning nerves ... the reason being that in marine animals you get certain specialised nerves which make it very easy to experiment on. So that's what I did then, and I finally became a staff member at Plymouth, the Marine Biological Laboratory. I was there for ... I was there for ... the remainder of my career really, except for from time to time, I was ... I went off to work in other laboratories ... I can't remember the dates at the moment, but ... I was a year and a bit at ... 18 months at ... the University of [4 mins] Illinois, in America, working with a colleague there, came back to Plymouth, and later went on again to ... for two years ... to Yale University in Connecticut, in America. ... And after that I returned to Plymouth, I was ...

JB Well, when did you come back to Cartmel, Vic ?

- VH Twelve years ago, when was that, [Pat whispers a date to him]. My parents had always lived here, in this house, until they died, which ... I inherited half of it, along with my brother, and finally bought his half, and we moved back here from Cornwall, where we were living ... that was when I was working in Plymouth ... [5 mins] [PH whispering : 2003], [JB : 2003, yes, OK], alright, came back in 2003. [JB : OK, that's good, now ...]. Most of my ... I also worked briefly in the University of Berne, with another colleague, but most of my career was in Plymouth, and to do with muscles and nerves. I was the editor of the Plymouth Marine Biological Laboratory Journal for about 17 years, so that was a part time ... not a part time ... but that was a second job, along with my research there, all the time, just there, something else to do with the working ... the running of the laboratory, and [6 mins] I was the editor of the journal, it was an international scientific journal, so I spent a lot of time doing that sort of thing.
- JB So Vic, if we come back to Cartmel, [VH : I'm sorry], no, that's OK, and you mentioned that you went to secondary school in Ulverston, [VH : yes], how did you get to Ulverston and back on a daily basis ?
- VH That was just a bus. I went by bus and came back by bus, to the corner of the road, it was about an hour's journey.
- JB Do you remember how much it cost, or was it free ?
- VH It wasn't free ... my parents bought what we called a contract. That was certainly the beginning, perhaps it became free later, I'm not too sure about that, but I do remember having to wait for this contract to come just before the beginning of term. But [7 mins] yes, no that was paid for.
- JB Was it a school bus, or was it a ...
- VH No, it was ... it was a service bus.
- JB So do you remember where the bus went ? Which way did it go ?
- VH It went from here to Newby Bridge, and then through to Ulverston. In the morning, it went all the way, and we didn't change, but in the afternoon, coming home, we had to change at Newby Bridge.
- JB What were your memories of secondary school ? Do you remember which studies ... which subjects you studied ?
- VH Yes, I studied ... well, everybody had to do I think it was five subjects for School Certificate, and I did ... Chemistry, Physics, Biology ... French, English ... [8 mins] anything else ... well that's about five. In the upper school, in the sixth form, I did Chemistry, Physics and Biology, those were my main things. I spent a lot of time playing Rugby and Cricket, I actually became Captain of Rugby and captain of Cricket as well, and in my final year I was picked for ludorum for running sports as well, and I'm now paying the price of that, as you may have noticed, limping around everywhere.
- JB Vic, was ... did the school compete against other schools locally ? [VH : Yes, yes] Which other schools would you have been playing against ?

- VH Barrow Grammar School, Heversham Grammar School ... St.Bees ... [9 mins] we played against their second team ... two public schools, Sedburgh and St.Bees, ...
- JB Was it a league, was there a ... ?
- VH No. These were just friendlys ... [JB : friendlys, yes, OK], fairly friendly.
- JB And what kind of extra-curricular activities were there at school ? What did you do when you weren't studying hard, and playing sport ?
- VH Well, there was always a fell-walking club ... I was never in sort of music society, I wasn't in the orchestra ... they did have a bit of an orchestra ... I was in a play, one day they had an annual play ... I can't ... it was mainly sport actually, I have to say.
- JB Did you play for the Carmel Club ? [VH : Yes]. What were some of your exploits playing for Cartmel ?
- VH [10 mins] Well, I played for Cartmel all the time that I was at the Grammar School, but of course, only in the holidays, because Saturday was taken up ... played for the school, that came first.
- JB Is that Cricket or Rugby ?
- VH Well, Cricket. There was no rugby club in Cartmel.
- JB OK. How many teams did Cartmel have in those days ? [VH : Two]. Did you play in the first team ? [VH : Yes]. From what age ? [VH : ... about 15 ...]. What was your speciality ? [VH : I was a batsman]. You were a batsman, OK.
- VH If you have the book, "B'twixt Cock and Fairy", I'm in that ... in that period.
- JB [11 mins] So maybe you could just tell us about the title of the book, and where it comes from ?
- VH The title of the book is called "B'twixt Cock and Fairy", and these are the two hills on Cartmel Park, little hummocks, one is Cock Hill, where ... which I believe got it's name possibly from a place where cock fights took place at some ancient time ... ancient days ... and Fairy Hill, I don't know how it got it's name, but that's what the book is called, and it's a history of Cartmel Cricket Club, which has a very significant history actually ... you would pick that up better from the book ... but it was one the very earliest Cricket Clubs, certainly the earliest in this area. It began, I believe, as a Cricket Club, for the [12 mins] workers at Holker Hall, and the first games were played there, I think, it only later became Cartmel Cricket Club.
- JB What were the facilities like, did they have the clubhouse ?
- VH Yes, yes, that must have been very early on, and there are certainly pictures of it in the book. They played in the Westmorland League, that was a league, it was quite a competitive league, and of course from year to year they had good and bad years, like everything else, like all clubs of that kind. I enjoyed playing cricket at Cartmel, and they played ... on lovely places. Ambleside had a lovely cricket ground, Cartmel was a good cricket ground ... but they were nearly all in Westmorland.

JB Did the ... did the village have a football team in those days also ?

VH The village ... yes, they did have a football team. [13 mins] I wasn't ... I didn't play with them.

IT Vic, could you name some other teams in the area that were playing here in Cartmel, that you played against ?

VH Yes. Warton, Arnside, ... [IT : did Grange have a team ?] ... Windermere. Grange, no, in my time, there was never a cricket team at Grange. They had attempted from time to time to make a cricket team at Grange, but for some reason it never lasted ... I don't know why that was, but we had players from Grange, working playing at Cartmel. We had a pretty good team during the period when I was working actually, they were quite successful in the league.

JB Well Vic, you've been telling us a bit about [14 mins] life in the village during the second world war, [VH : yes], and I think you had started to say about some evacuees who came here, can you tell us about that ?

VH Yes. In 1940 we had ... I think they were probably all from one school, because they were all fairly close, and they came from Salford, and lived in ... spread around the village, [JB : so were these school boys ?], both, boys and ... oh yes, they were school boys and girls, [JB : so the age would have been similar to you, would it ?], yes, yes, yes.

JB And how were they put up, how were they housed around the village ?

VH They were billeted on ... with families, the house next door to us had two, I think they were called Axal ... just up the road was ... I became very friendly ... I had a good friend among them, called Ronnie Freize, I remember ... [15 mins] but there boys and girls, and they were just with families.

JB But the families came as well ... they came ... ?

VH No, there were just the children ... they were billeted on Cartmel families ... with Cartmel families ... it must have been quite standard I think in those days ... at that time.

JB And they would attend school locally as well ?

VH They came to the Cartmel School, yes, yes, and they integrated extremely well. There was ... a teacher, I don't know what you would call him exactly, who came at intervals, not weekly, less frequently than that, and they would all go into the senior classroom ... Cartmel kids were somewhere else ... because this ... he was ... he had to teach them ... it was religious instruction, and he wore a funny hat, you know, he was a ... [IT : Rabbi ?] [16 mins] I don't know what you would call him ... that's all, that's all ... he wore a scull cap, but ...

IT [unclear comment whilst VH was speaking again]

VH He came for one day, about once a fortnight, or maybe even once a month, I don't know, and they received instruction ... in whatever it was, I don't know.

IT Because you said they were Jewish ?

VH They were all Jewish, yes. [coughs]

JB It was the Jewish school in Salford ? [VH : yes, yes, yes, yes] And how long did that last for ? Do you know when they went back ?

VH I think they dribbled away ... [coughs] ... I think ... it didn't last for the whole duration of the Second World War, because I think the requirement disappeared ... as the Allies ... [JB : there was less bombing, I think, wasn't there ?] Yes. The Allies eventually had complete [17 mins] air superiority, and the bombing went ... There was another wave of evacuees, late in the Second World War, who came from London, and they were ... I'd sort of ... I can remember only one, but there weren't a lot. Probably the original ones from Salford were mainly 20 or 30, but later on ... and this was when the V bombs started to ... you know the V1s and V2s started to drop, and they came from London. How official that was I don't know ... it must have been, they weren't privately sent, so they were evacuees, but they were a different lot altogether, and they were a very small number.

JB I think that somebody had said separately, Vic, that ... an army [18 mins] regiment or division had been stationed in the village, or just outside of the village. Do you recall that ?

VH At Cark. There were ... there were two camps down at ... at Cark. There was an airfield, mainly for training, I think and ... army barracks as well. They did a lot of anti-aircraft gunnery there and ... that was gradual, throughout the war, as far as I remember. They were two separate camps.

JB Did the soldiers mix with the local people ? Was there much interaction ?

VH I can't say ... [JB : OK] yes, I think [19 mins] they must have done.

JB OK. So if we just follow the time line through, at the end of the Second World war, you'd be 15 I think, if you were born in 1930, [VH : yes, that's right], so you were still in the village for a bit longer before you went to University ?

VH Yes, I was, yes, yes, yes.

JB So you would have left the village ... when you went to University, you'd have been 18, I suppose ?

VH No. I went to ... I went to University in 1949 ... No, I'm totally wrong. I was ... started my National Service in 1949, and I finished in 1951. It was just for two years.

IT But you had been ill a year, so you were ... you were a year older, were you ?

VH Yes. [20 mins] I didn't ... I was 19 when I left school ... to join the Air Force, [IT : because you had been ill when you were 12 ?], yes, I was ... I was a year behind my contemporaries because I was ... I had pneumonia, and was laid up for quite a long time, as a ... first year at grammar school, and started again, so I was in fact one year older than ... the kids, my contemporaries at school, but that's ... but that's it. 1949-51 in the Air Force, 51 to 54 as an undergraduate in London, and then from 54 on ...

JB So after the war finished in 1945, until you left to go and do your [21 mins] National Service, you were still in the village at that time ?

VH Yes, oh yes, I was living here. [JB : you were living in this house we're in today ?] Yes.

JB So how did life change during that period after the end of the war ? Rationing, for example, how long ... and did you feel the effects of rationing ?

VH Yes. Rationing went on for quite a long time after the Second World War ... and I can't tell you when it ended.

JB What kind of things were in short supply ?

VH Meat, fats, sugar. There were no such things as sweets ... candy ... in the war, there was nothing of that kind, and it took quite a while to get that going. I can remember quite well that when I went into Germany in [22 mins] 1950, (I was in the Air Force), there was much less rationing in Germany than there was here.

JB Why would that have been ?

VH Well, I don't know, but it was a fact.

JB Did people in the village go hungry, or was it just ...

VH No, I don't think so. We certainly didn't. We had a pig, and hens in the back here. We always had a pig and hens, [coughs] so we were quite well placed for that sort thing ... eggs and ham.

JB What did your parents ... what did your father do in the war ?

VH In his ordinary job, his ordinary civil service job.

JB OK, so he wasn't called up.

VH No, no ... no. He was ... he was too old then. Yes

PH He would have ... he went round in the ARP van.

VH [23 mins] Oh yes. He ... he was a Special Constable. That wasn't his job, but yes he was a Special Constable.

JB What did that entail ?

VH Walking around the village, and ... telling people if their lights were showing through the ... if the blackout wasn't complete, and just to see what was going on in the village. They went round in pairs.

JB But you told us that there was a police presence in the village.

VH Yes, there was a policeman lived in ... there was a policeman in the village, but Special Constables were not the same ... they ... there was a ... there was the ARP, that's the Air Raid Precautions, and there was the ... [24 mins] the Special Constables, of which my father was one,

and of course there was famously the Dad's Army, the Home Guard. The Home Guard was originally, when the war started, it was called the Local Defence Volunteers, abbreviated to the LDV, known as the Look, Duck and Vanish.

JB Sorry, say that again.

VH It was called the Look, Duck and Vanish. [JB : Look, Duck and Vanish ?] Yes. That was the LDV. But it became the Home Guard, and everybody knows about the Home Guard from Dad's Army, and it was very like that. So those were the sort of war time [25 mins] groups that were organised officially : the Special Constables, the Air Raid Precautions, ARP, and the ... Home Guard, the Home Guard.

JB What kind of activities would the Home Guard have been getting up to ? Because it's ...

VH Well they just ... actually, they didn't get up to much at all, apart from training. I mean, they would meet in the village hall, and be ... get the instructions from regular army sergeants or something who would arrive, and they would have to learn about shooting with a rifle. They had a little ... they had ... they had an assault course actually in the Priory gardens, so they could run around and jump over all sorts, and ... climb up [26 mins] ropes and things like that, like an assault course, so that was ... it was training, you know, just like military training.

JB And it was a volunteer force, wasn't it ? [VH : Yes, it was]. So how many people about would have volunteered from the village ? How big a force was it ?

VH I would ... I think I could ... I could make a fair old guess about that because ... as boys we used to go and ... almost play with them. There must have been about 20 or 30.

JB Out of a population ... how big was the village in those days ? [VH : 500]. There was 500 people ... [VH : Yes, that's what ... yes]. So that's actually quite a ... feels like quite a small number ?

VH But, you mean in the Home Guard. [JB : Yes] But there .. I mean there were the Special Constables and the ARP, and there was one other thing as well, but I don't know what ... I don't know what this was called, but there were [27 mins] another organisation, the ... they met and slept ... went out at night ... and all sorts of ... up onto the fell, I think ... and in other places they were ... spotting for enemy aircraft. And I can't think of what ... what the name was. [IT : or parachutes ?] Or ... yes.

JB So it was a look-out ?

VH Yes ... yes they were, yes ... and I can't ... I can't think ... I think they had dinner ... it was called the Observer Corps, that's right, the Observer Corps. So that was ... and what I've missed out, of course, there were of course women's volunteer [28 mins] organisations ... [IT : like ? ... they had names ?] ... [JB : The Land Girls ?] ... Well there was certainly that, yes ... [PH : WVS] ... WVS, Women's Voluntary Service, that's right, and they would do anything ... they were ... no the Women's Voluntary Service ... [PH : they made tea] ... yes, and they were sort of universally actually helpful people who ... and they were fund raisers too ... they did a lot of fund raising, the WVS.

IT Did you get any American soldiers in the area ?

VH Not here, not in this area, except ... once ... late on ... well, as a [29 mins] matter of fact, before the invasion, before the ... D Day, probably for a couple of months or so before D Day, there were Americans billeted ... in the army camp down at the ... at Cark. And they came up here to the pub at Cartmel, in all sorts of vehicles ... it was quite exciting actually.

JB So after the war, things got back to normal quite quickly, did they ?

VH No, it was slow. I would say it was ... it was quite slow. When you say things got back to normal, rationing went on for a long time ... and ...

JB But the activities of the Special Constables, the ARP, [30 mins] the DLV, these all ...

VH Yes, the requirement had gone. So I guess they all ... abandoned ... and the cricket club got going ... [JB : had it stopped during the war ?] Yes, yes.

IT When did you start noticing growth in the village, new shops opening, new activity, new people coming to buy houses, when did all that start ?

VH Can you switch off a minute ... I'll have to ... I have to think ...

[Break in recording]

VH ... there was a shoe shop, a vegetable shop ... other things ... [PH : fish & chip shop] ... a fish and chip shop ...

JB Where were they all, Vic, the cobbler's for instance ?

VH Well, that what I'd like to ... if we had a map I could point them out ... if we start here [31 mins] and go down ... on Cavendish Street, where the smithy was, where L'Enclume is now ... almost opposite there was the cobbler's, a shoe shop, Mr Wareing's shoe shop ... he was a cobbler as well, he was ... shoe shop ... repairing shoes. The warehouse for Mr Eccles ... fruit and vegetable wholesaler ... was ... as it were ... next to the L'Enclume, going along ... going towards ... it's a house now, but it was a warehouse, and he delivered fruit and vegetables as far away as Ambleside, in the area, and he had a retail shop ... where ... [inaudible background prompt] ... Priest Lane ... where the Priory ... here's ... [32 mins] if we go down here, here is the Priory, and then there's a house ...

PH a thick Georgian house, [VH : sticking out ...], and then that little smaller lower house that's been done up, just recently, and big gardens at the back, well that's where he lived. [VH : where who lived ?] Mr Eccles.

VH No, he lived at Wood Broughton. That was his retail ... that was a retail fruit and vegetable shop, and there was a house ... there was a house ... where Lady Mears[?] lived, and then there was the retail shop ... going along ... going along Cavendish Street, we go past the shoe shop, then there's the pub on the left, which is the ... the Cavendish Arms ... and going into The Square, there was ...

PH There was Frankies ... little cake shop wasn't there ... Frankies

- VH [33 mins] Oh yes, yes, that's right, yes. Dead opposite to the Cavendish Arms ... are you with me now ... dead opposite, is a long rather low building, which was the doctor's surgery for a while, but early ... before that, it was ... it was run by Frank Campbell, a man called Frank Campbell, [PH : confectioner], and Mrs Campbell who had ... ran a little restaurant in there ... it wasn't much in the way of restaurants, but they had a restaurant there, and ... probably I would ... you'd call it a tea room, and they had a confectioner's shop in there. Then going into The Square, there was the Post Office on the ... as you go through the arch, immediately right, the present shop was always there, that was a general grocer's shop, and the Post Office. Then the building facing you, with [34 mins] the little columns ... little pillars ... that was a tobacconist, sweetshop ... Mrs Unsworth ...
- JB You mention the Unsworths, was the garage on the corner opposite L'Enclume in those days ... or opposite the smithy?
- VH No. They did have a garage. The garage was ... where ... [PH : the café] ... where the present architects ... no, he's moved ...
- PH the café, The Mallard. [VH : Yes] And that was pumps .. petrol pumps, and when we went into the Common Market, they were too near the road, so they had to go, and then the whole building was brought forward and ... to the road, and it was made into a café, The Mallard Café.
- VH Yes, that was the filling station, garage. [PH : That was the Unsworth's, the Unsworth's]. And where Unsworth's Yard [35 mins] is, you know, that was the yard where they had ... a couple of lorries, and all the other ... car repair workshops.
- JB But the building which is opposite what is now L'Enclume today, would have been the smithy then, that's got a sign on the wall, [PH : it's always been there], a bicycle sign.
- VH That sign's been there for ever.
- PH It was always just like a barn, never a[?]
- VH That building, with the Raleigh[?], that was essentially ... part of the smithy. That belonged to Billy Watson, the ... [PH : it was just like a barn, wasn't it] ... and I don't know what ... yes it was ...
- PH It does ... it looks exactly ... when those doors ... [VH : it was a store] it looks exactly the same now as it was then.
- VH Yes, I think that was part of the ... part of the blacksmith's ... operation.
- PH And from [36 mins] that, the road that leads down to the house beyond, that was always the doctor's house, wasn't it, doctor ... [VH : Yes] that delivered you. [VH : Dr Charlton] Yes, Dr Charlton lived there.
- VH That's the house as you ... part of the bottom of the ... there's a long ... a long drive across the field.

- JB There are two properties, aren't there ?
- [Both Vic & Pat then both speaking at the same time in parts of the next discussion]
- VH Yes, yes. [PH : No] There was only one.
- PH There was only one then, and his garden [VH : Yes, yes] They made the other property since. The house stood on it's own, wasn't it. Dr Charlton's house stood alone, didn't it, then.
- VH Yes. There was an extension built, like two houses [PH inaudible prompt but mentioning a garage] It was just one house, and his surgery was actually inside the house, so what the other bit was I don't know. But then, in The Square, there was a ... a confectioner, [37 mins] next to the Unsworth's, Mrs Howson, then there was a little alleyway, then the bank, which is on that ... you can see it on that photograph ... next door to the Priory Hotel, which was always called the Priory Hotel, was Fred Brown ... shop ... he was a baker, that was a baker's shop ...
- JB The book shop on the corner ? [VH : Sorry ?] The book shop ?
- VH That was either empty or a book shop. I think it probably was just a store for the book shop. The book shop wasn't a book shop then ... the book shop ... was the shop which I've just told you ... just described as Mrs Howson's confectioners. [38 mins] She gave up and he took it over as a book shop. And then he gave it up as a ... and his store became the shop. It hardly ever ... he was hardly ever there. He has a much bigger book shop in Kendal, or he did have ... he's not here any more. He was quite an interesting character, Mr ... Norman Kerr. [JB : Why so ?] Because he was ... an expert ... he was very knowledgeable about railways. He was a very keen railway person. And in the Second World War, he was actually engaged by the government, because he knew a lot about the continental railways ... about the German railways, in fact, where junctions where, and what they did ... stations ... and he was in [39 mins] fact engaged by some authority to advise them about German railways. ... So there was [?], then another shop, on the other opposite side of the bridge, which I mentioned earlier on, Miss Warrener's, again cigarettes and sweets.
- JB Is that where Rogan's is today ?
- VH It's where Rogan's is now, yes, yes.
- JB Now I've seen a photograph that next to Rogan's, there was a building which I think was a pub, was it called the Bell ?
- VH The Blue Bell. [JB : The Blue Bell] Yes, yes. Now that had ceased to be a pub ... I don't know when ... before I came along ... it was a private house, but .. but became a café ... Mrs Mayor ran it as a ... as a another confectioners and café.
- JB What was the name ? Mrs ?
- VH I think that was ... I think that was Mrs [40 mins] Mayor, who had some connection with Bob. I don't know where Billy Copeland came from, but he was connected with the Mayor family in some way. Has he told you about that ? [JB : Yes] Well that's where they were [JB : So

as we continue ...] Did he tell you about ... they may have moved at some time actually, I seem to remember ... [JB : We can ask him that, Vic] Yes, yes.

JB As you continue walking through then, in that direction, past the area where the petrol pumps used to be, before they were moved, [VH : Yes] we continue out towards the Causeway, [41 mins] [VH : Yes] and then at the top of the Causeway, where there is the shop today, was that shop there ?

VH Yes. That was Sid Hull's general grocer's shop, and Marion Airey, who we were speaking about, was his daughter, and lived and grew up there, and when she married ... she married George Airey from Field Broughton, and they continued ... they ran the shop there. So that was a shop. We've actually missed out the ... the Devonshire Square, where the shop with all sweaters and fancy goods and things ... [IT : The Larch Tree ?] The Larch Tree. Well that was always a ... that had a varied career ... I think it was never very successful ... it was at sometimes a shop, sometimes a café, but it was ... it never quite ... it changed hands a lot of times, I think ... [42 mins] but the one called Hales shop was called Ye Olde Priory Shoppe, one these awful ... so that was always really another sweet shop and tobacconist ... [PH : and ice cream]. It was Mr Turner, as I remember to begin with, and then Mr Cummins ... [PH : Mr Cummins made the most of it]. But that was the shops there, and then, as you say, going out ... going out past the petrol pumps ... Clogger Beck was the joiner's shop. Do you know where I mean by Clogger Beck ? [JB : Yes]. Clogger Beck. Well that was Fred Burton's joiner's shop. He was the main carpenter joiner in the village. There were [43 mins] others ... who became apprentices there ... and one, Harry Chambers, set up as a ... on a small scale ... joiner, you know, a one-man joiner, but the joiner and undertaker was Fred Burton at Clogger Beck, where he had machinery and so on. And that's about the lot.

JB So Vic, any other memories of the village that would be of interest, do you think ?

VH There was briefly, in the late 40s, a boxing club. [JB : a boxing club ?] Yes, yes. [JB : tell us about it]. Well ... Charlie Mayor, who ... and [44 mins] I'm surprised if Billy Copeland hasn't told you all about this ... Charlie Mayor was briefly a professional boxer ... and so he became the sort of trainer for boys club. There was a boxing club, which I was a member, for briefly, I never really liked it much, but I retired undefeated, I have to say after two tournaments. There were boxing tournaments, mainly ... it was a bit incestuous ... you kept having the same tournament by the same people, and they were the Barrow Sea Cadets had a boxing club, and they came here, and they were ... in the Village Hall they had a ring set up .. and John Crowe ... John Crowe from [45 mins] Field Broughton, he was one of the members who was quite active. He's still around. That must have been about ... about 1946. It didn't last very long, but it was ... we went once to have a contest with another boxing club at Preston even, as far away as that. That was something that I had forgotten about, but it was another of these clubs that we spoke about.

IT But you told us Vic that it felt like you never left, because you kept coming back.

VH Yes. I ... it felt in that sense that we ... we always had quite a strong connection. But a lot of things went on, like buildings, that I didn't notice, or it happened when we weren't here. [46 mins] The village expanded ... somewhat ... with Council houses ... some private

development, and ... so the Council houses were the ones that went up ... on the Allithwaite Road ... and they were specifically for old people. Where Gladys lives. [PH : several background prompts whilst VH is speaking]. Headless Cross ... I don't know ... it's a small estate, I don't know what it's called, but that's Headless Cross. Otherwise, there were odd bits of building of private houses, one at a time, here and there. And then ... the ones which are now called ...

PH I don't know her name, but that [47 mins] old lady that used to see to Gladys, she would have a book full of memories, [VH : Yes], because she ... I don't think she's ever left the village.

VH It's ... are we talking now ? Can you switch off a second ? I found on my computer some of the ... little articles that I wrote, but I can't print them because my printer's konked out. I tried to ... I was going to give you them. These are the things that appeared in the ... in the village comic, what's it called ? [PH : The Parish Magazine] The Parish Magazine, Yes. But you say you have access to some of those ?

IT We can speak to them, and see who can get hold of any.

JB But if they are on your computer, Vic, we could print them off for you.

PH You'd have to find them first !

VH I could just email them to you, [48 mins] or get a stick, [JB : a memory stick], Yes. [JB : we could bring one]. I am hoping that I will get a printer working soon, but it just konked out just at the wrong moment. Yes, I have found some of them on ... they are actually little descriptions of ... bits about Cartmel that I knew.

PH When you used to play in the woods, down by ... where the tip was, do you remember ... where the ... on the road to Cark ... that wood that's there, and you used to go across a pole on the river.

VH Yes. Well, that's all in one of those ... one of those little articles ... and about ... go on ... sorry, ...

JB So Vic, I think we'll probably wrap it up there ...

VH Yes, I think we're ... yes ... we're kind of ...

JB I think [49 mins] we've used all of your memory up, haven't we ?

VH Probably not, actually ... it comes in fits and starts

JB Well if you think of anything else, we can always come back and do this again.

VH Well I was actually thinking in terms of ... at one time, this river was full of fish, and it was amazing ... it was a salmon river... there was a late run, round about late October, of salmon, who came up and spawned in Castle Meadows up there. And all the time I was a kid, there were fish in the river, and they've disappeared, absolutely gone ... you can't see a single fish anywhere. No, not even eels, there were always eels ... that's in one of these little articles, and I describe in some ...

JB Maybe what we'll do is ... is read the articles, and then come back and have one final session with you.

PH You [50 mins] need one of your[?].

JB Thanks very much for today.

VH I know what you mean. I seem to have stalled a bit, I ...

JB No, that's OK. So I'll stop the recording. Before I stop it, I'll just repeat the date – it's the sixth of February 2016, and it's now just before 12 o'clock, and we've been with Vic and Pat Howarth. So Thank You both very much indeed, and we'll close the recording there. Thank You again.

VH OK [recording ends at 50 mins 28 secs]