



**MORECAMBE BAY PARTNERSHIP
HEADLANDS TO HEADSPACE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
2015-2018**

Cumbria County Council, The Factory,
Castle Mills, Aynam Road, Kendal, LA9 7DE
Tel: 015397 34888

TRANSCRIPT SUMMARY

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INTERVIEW NO: H2H2016.30
INTERVIEWEE NAME/S: June Wilson
YEAR OF BIRTH: 1948
INTERVIEWER/S: Barbara Copeland
DATE OF INTERVIEW: 13/10/16
LOCATION: Flookburgh
SUMMARISER: Deborah Coleman

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| 00.00 | Early life & family background. Born 1948 in Flookburgh. Moved to Ulverston aged 3 or 4. Father: Ronnie (ph) Wearing, joiner. Originally from Barrow, came to Ravenstown when houses built in wartime. Mother: Edith Fazackerley (sp?) from Rusland; farming family; didn't like Flookburgh so family moved to Ulverston |
| 01.40 | Introduction to fishing. With a friend used to pick a bit at Canal Foot when 9 or 10; didn't think would end up doing it full time. Fisherman was Alf Butler related to Butlers in Flookburgh |
| 02.27 | Marriage. Met husband [John] at Coronation Hall in Ulverston – used to go dancing - & came to live in Ravenstown. He was fishing; JW worked at Ashley's [electrical goods] & at shoe factory in Ulverston till son born. Never really knew what John was catching, or what time he'd be home etc. but never worried. John interjects with story about not being missed when out night fishing |
| 04.10 | Picking shrimps. Started at home when son born in 1971, with about 5 or 6 others working for bit of extra money, and is still picking. Some names: Ivy Johnson, Linda, Elizabeth Rhodes, Ann Hill, Pat Wilson. Took shrimps round to 9 or 10 other houses so mothers with young children could pick in their own time. Men didn't often pick. Always say 'pick' rather than 'peel' though people sometimes don't understand. It's seasonal work: summer months no good as shrimps get too warm & die; need to be alive when boiled to pick properly (otherwise break up) |
| 08.20 | Selling shrimps. Took to Barrow market Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays. Outside to begin with then 18 years inside. Took about 10-15 lbs a time, some in shells for people to peel themselves |
| 09.30 | Potting shrimps. Didn't pot many – John out fishing till 9 or 10 at night, & had enough to do with market etc., so took to factory. When did pot, used melted butter & spices (cayenne, white pepper, nutmeg / mace) to own taste, sealed with butter. People have been potting shrimps for years, to preserve them when no fridges or freezers |

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| 11.20 | Sands. Been out on sands cockling a few times. Took children out with fishing nets when they were little, made it a day out, they enjoyed it. <i>Indistinct</i> : 'Meeting walks' (a charity?): leading walks from Hest Bank to Kents Bank or Humphrey Head (John). |
| 12.28 | Daily routine. Chatted while peeling shrimps – where they'd been, what they'd done [<i>the women not the shrimps!!</i>]. Picked in mornings after kids had gone to school, started earlier as they grew up. Then packed shrimps up ready for market, weighed out into ¼ lbs. Used to sell in pints, then had to use lbs. Stopped potting because of health & safety regulations – would have had to register. Never got away on holiday – something always came up [<i>but see below</i>] |
| 15.00 | Feeding the birds. Dropped shrimp husks in sea – something to watch – birds knew you were coming & swooped down. No waste! |
| 15.18 | Other fish. Caught flukes, bass, mullet, plaice, cockles – whatever you could get including salmon, but none now. Don't know why, same everywhere, because of big boats catching them? Took all fish to market, used to sell quickly |
| 17.25 | Social life. ? [someone] taught swimming; JW & children were always at Grange pool in summer. Ravenstown club on a Saturday night once a month – sometimes had groups playing, would get a babysitter & go. Never went anywhere much – days out in Morecambe; 1 week off a year – would go away in caravan or to Butlins. Otherwise tied to market, people expecting you, bills & rates to pay. Nowadays people don't want to be tied down. Led healthy life; no illnesses |
| 19.40 | Dramas on sands. John tells story about 2 lads from Baycliff lost on sands after cockling – quad rolled over, thought about swimming across to Heysham, only had Xmas cracker compass. Ended up [safe] on marsh at Flookburgh. 'Queer thing being lost': can learn from stars to a certain extent, but no one's infallible. Can't always see lights round bay: one of worst nights came during 1970s power cuts; dark by 5 in November / December, plus hailstorm – lucky to get home |
| 24.00 | Life as fisherman's wife. JW enjoyed life – teamwork – always worked together. Would change some things – knew people in Flookburgh, knew what to expect, but no shops! Pitch black by 5 & everything shut – still is, not much in Flookburgh. For shopping went by train to Ulverston – alright once passed driving test. Nowadays just does a bit of shrimp picking & sells some at door. Used to be real Flookburgh thing – lot of people sold at door to holiday makers etc, well known for it but died out now. Also had market garden & sold veg on fish stall at Barrow market |
| 27.00 | Thanks & close |