



**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: H2H2017.45  
INTERVIEWEE NAME/S: Butler Brothers – William Charles and Derek James  
YEAR OF BIRTH: 1948 and 1952  
INTERVIEWER/S: Marion Dawson  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: 8<sup>th</sup> August 2017  
LOCATION: Flookburgh  
SUMMARISER: Michael Redman

Bill's wife Janet also present during interview

Track 1	
0 – 1:27	Introductions William Charles Butler (known as Bill, so here BB) born at Flookburgh and Derek James Butler (DB) born at Oubas House <sup>1</sup> , Ulverston, BB dob. 31/08/1948, DB dob. 29/08/1952
1:30 – 1:50	Occupations, DB – part-time fishing, BB – retired Chemical Engineer with Glaxo.
1:50 – 2:28	Derek explains he has had several jobs, tractor driver at grass driers <sup>2</sup> , Glaxo for 14 years, offshore for the rest.
2:28 – 3:00	Mother and father's occupations – Fisherman and small holder "mother just helped"
3:00 – 3:32	Janet introduced – Janet Mary Butler (JB) 11 August 1950 – microbiologist (Bill's wife)
3:32 – 4:02	Janet's parent's occupations, Father Vickers Shipyard – Engineer on submarines, Mother sewed curtains, seamstress.
4:02 – 4:36	Early life of BB, went to South Africa at 6 month's old, where his mother had come from, for some months, hasn't returned to visit South Africa, educated in the village and Ulverston Grammar School, Leeds University and Glaxo
4:36 – 5:30	DB, grew up in village schools, "up at Cartmel", then worked for "our father", fishing, farming, market gardening from 14 to 18, Glaxo for 14 years, then off-shore. Platforms and oil rigs, then international, Egypt, Tunisia, during the war, Kazakhstan, India, Trinidad, (BB - not the second world war - laughs)
5:30 – 6:25	Other brothers and sisters, two sisters, Joyce and Wendy. Joyce Thompson and

<sup>1</sup> Oubas House, Ulverston was a children's sanatorium, later a maternity home closed in 1972

<sup>2</sup> Grass driers - Vitagrass, Old Park Farm Holker. Dried, powdered grass heated and compressed into pellets for animal feed.

	Wendy Smith. Joyce lives in the village and Wendy at Yealand Redmayne.
6:25 – 7:28	Discussion of BB's visit to South Africa, father was in Royal Navy, attached to the Merchant Navy on DEMS, Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships as a gunner, where he met BB's mother. Parent's married in 1947.
7:28 – 7:48	DB - Mother was a "missions to seaman" supporter.
7:48 - 8:52	Discussion of father's work. Fisherman before WW2, work involved market gardening and co-operation of cousins and others from the Butler family. DB - Grandfather had 13 in his family, Grandmother had about the same.
8:52 - 9:48	BB – Father had one brother. Frank Benson Butler – worked at Windscale, Dursley Gloucestershire (Berkley power station), Wylfa, North Wales.
9:48 – 12:16	Discussion of fishing history of Butler family. Butlers researching this. At least four generations. Two Butler brothers came from Ireland. One settled near Flookburgh. Possibly Duddon, but may be Wales. Mary Butler has records of family trees. DB says he met Sean Butler from Wales who may be a relative.
12:16 – 14:25	Memories of BB's grandfather, DB – he was "soldier in the First World War", he was Chairman of the Parish Council and on the North West Sea Fisheries Commission, meeting at Chester. He got Young's Seafood <sup>3</sup> to build the packing and freezing plant at Cark. Grandfather William Butler. Father - William Leslie Butler <sup>4</sup> – "Les", they lived next door.
14:25 – 15:15	DB relates having to work as a child, "muck the cows out and feed them, before you go to school ... and soon as you get back", autumn and winter. Cutting lettuce before school in summer. 30 dozen. BB avoided that as he was the "intelligent one". BB did his fishing at weekends.
15:15 – 16:00	Work on the small holding. BB describes it as "brilliant". DB - "Educational in its own way". DB and BB say it was enjoyable working in the fresh air. BB as a child drew tractors and aeroplanes.
16:00 – 16:48	BB relates his interest in tractors, shrimping and starting shrimping with horses and carts. Enjoyed swimming around with a horse as it could go deeper than a tractor.
16:48 - 18:00	BB - Discussion of variation between tractor and horse fishing. 14 foot wide shrimping trawl, weighted so it would stay on the bottom. DB – A miniature beam trawl, a beam trawl smaller than one on the boats. BB - Horse and cart one net 14 foot wide. Tractors, an old car chassis, this could go deeper than horses, on a rope, towing two nets on two arms, 11 to 12 foot then later on 14 foot.
18:00 – 19:00	BB – tells of disputes between horse and tractor fishermen. One tractor was equivalent to two or two and a half horses and faster.
19:00 – 21:55	DB – "Gave over going to school at 14", he went full-time, fishing. BB - he used to go with fisherman at 4 years old sat on the flat board of the cart. BB - Stories of night fishing younger when he was less than 10 years old.
21:55 – 22:48	BB tells of relationship with father. DB – When switching over to tractors they used wire cables before going to polypropylene <sup>5</sup> , usually wire from cranes on the dockyard <sup>6</sup> . Strands start breaking so can't be used with cranes. Wire was scrap cable.
22:48 – 24:29	DB explains about "doubling up" with plastic rope, wires were 200m long so turning round was very difficult. "Tying the steering" had to be learned about. Before that the "little-uns" had to sit on the chassis to steer it. (enjoyable) DB relates falling off the chassis before the channel and being pulled into the water by the net. Courlene nets.
24:29 – 25:15	BB explains that the wire rope got "furry" – broken strands stuck out of the wire made it very painful to handle. BB - Courlene sheds fibres, which makes rope abrasive.
25:15 – 26:00	DB – The falling off the chassis happened when he was about 11 years old. BB - early teens when they got into tractors. DB went on his own with the tractor at 12 or

<sup>3</sup> Young's Seafood, Cark opened in 1950.

<sup>4</sup> Willian Leslie Butler is known as "Les Butler" in Flookburgh.

<sup>5</sup> Poly-propylene rope locally known as Courlene - a rope made by the Courtaulds company.

<sup>6</sup> Dockyard – Vickers shipbuilders, Barrow-in-Furness – locally "the Yard".

	13 years old. BB says the same, but 4 years earlier. BB learned to drive a tractor on an old grey Fergie <sup>7</sup> .
26:00 – 29:30	BB - Discussion of using a Ferguson tractor. Learned to drive a tractor at 7 or 8 years old. Expected. Story of tractor being used on a field. DB in a pram BB on the tractor. DB would be 5 or 6. BB about 10 years old. Mum would be at market.
29:30 – 30:15	At the same time Friday night the children would stay next door at Grandmother's. Pancakes for supper if you submitted to being cleaned by the yard brush.
30:15 – 30:45	JB shows a family tree to interviewer – DB and BB, father a fisherman, his father was a fisherman, his father was a fisherman, his father was a “carrier over the sands”, he used to take the mail, across the sands. He was a railway porter then a fisherman. Also shoemaker and joiner within the family.
30:45 – 31:12	BB explains that people had several jobs depending on the availability of fish in the Bay.
31:12 – 32:00	DB explains the families made hay to keep the horses over the winter to be able to fish. BB – the family had 30 acres on mixed farming, field for horse, land provided 95% of produce for the market and hawking.
32:00 – 34:36	Grandfather had a horse and cart, father had a van.to hawk and go to market or Storrs Hall, hawking along the way and staying overnight at the Hall. Wednesday Cartmel Fell, Coniston and area Friday, Kendal market Saturday. Also Tuesday round. On a Friday he would get home late and van needed emptying and cleaning. The van would be used to get fish from the 4 am train from Hull on Saturday morning. Then Kendal market 7 am.
34:36 – 39:12	Mother during all this, scalding shrimps, picking shrimps and lighting the shrimp boiler. Fuel wood or coal. 20 gallons of water - boiling just as the fishermen come in from the sand to save fuel. After boiling pick shrimps, shrimps for Young's as picked, scalded and salted for local retail sale. She would take some shrimps to Kendal market. She would also sell fish, shrimps and fruit and veg from the house. Others did the same in the village.
39:12 – 38:42	BB explains the country was short of food a rationing occurred, but locals “didn't go hungry” during the Second World War.
38:42 – 39:15	Flookburgh healthy place “except when they were bombing Barrow”. A bomb landed at Allithwaite. “They bombed Chapel Island.” DB – Unexploded bomb in Uncle Herbert's nets.
39:15 – 40:40	DB and BB also picked shrimps.in the summer holidays, when kids, a quart of shrimps, and a gill <sup>8</sup> when at school.
40:40 – 42:30	Interviewer asked BB to explain he was the “intelligent one” (laughs) Discussion of why BB went to school and DB went to work. Discussion of grandfather buying father out of school. Grandad had to pay school to let grammar school educated son work at home.
42:30 – 43:10	BB went to the secondary school for one year before going to the grammar school <sup>9</sup> . He didn't want to play rugby. A few years later he was the school rugby captain.
43:10 - 44:35	DB went to Cartmel Secondary. Flookburgh, then Holker, then Cartmel until 14, then he went fishing. Illegal as the school leaving age was 16 at the time. Children leaving school at 14 to work was accepted in Cumbria. Michael McClure did the same.
44:35 – 49:12	BB explains about his school experience. Didn't want to go, but enjoyed sport. He got “O” and “A” levels, BB went to Glaxo straight from school. He broke his leg playing rugby. He then went to night school at Glaxo, then he was forced to go to University. He was on the books so got his stamp and worked at Glaxo during the holidays. He and Jan (JB) got married and she went to Leeds University. They bought a house at this time.
49:12 – 50:58	BB and JB met at Glaxo. Both started at Glaxo 4 <sup>th</sup> September 1967.BB occasionally fished while at University. BB mainly “called upon to fix tractors.” BB explains about his work fixing tractors.
50:58 – 51:15	DB explains that he spent time fixing tractors.

<sup>7</sup> A Fergie is a Ferguson tractor - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferguson\\_TE20](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferguson_TE20)

<sup>8</sup> gill – a unit of measurement equivalent to ¼ pint - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gill\\_\(unit\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gill_(unit))

<sup>9</sup> Ulverston Grammar

51:15 – 52:58	BB and DB explain what's happening on a photograph of horse and cart fishing. DB explains the mechanics of fishing. Once mechanised, fishing could be long way down the channels. West Dyke.
52:58 – 54:22	Discussion about names of features on the sand. They change over time. DB - About three years ago main channel was this side of Chapel Island. A scar <sup>10</sup> was dug out. Now the channel is the other side of the island. 20 years ago that scar was dug out by the channel. About 10 -15 acres of scar.
54:22 -55:58	Ilderidge Scar <sup>11</sup> discussed. "A pile of rocks well out from the shore." Out from Baycliff. Tractors trawling close to the scar might catch a net on the rocks.
55:58 – 57:27	Young men were better on the use of tractors. Older generation didn't want to go onto tractors. BB - You went shrimping once you were big enough to lift the net onto the cart or chassis. BB not allowed to go on their own when younger.
57:27 – 59:05	BB - uses the term "flow holes" to describe the scouring of channels by the falling tide. DB - Turbulent water scours a hole which can fill with mud and be difficult to see. A risk for tractors. Horses when hitting a mud-hole would "strike" <sup>12</sup> , the horse would pull itself out of the mud-hole.
59:05 – 1:00:04	BB used to go fishing with his grandfather two horses and carts. He would fall asleep in the bottom of the cart.
1:00:04 – 1:00:30	DB went with the horses, only once or twice on his own. The four years between DB and BB were when tractors were introduced.
1:00:30 – 1:01:12	DB and BB discuss some photographs. Grandfather and Herbert fishing with a stream <sup>13</sup> net for flukes. Pictures of carts, trawling.
1:01:12 – 1:03:46	DB and BB - Horses could go deep so water over its back. Cart can be almost submerged. Children would sit up at the front and the water would reach the back of the cart. DB - "The generation before ...women are cockling there." - Girls in dresses, probably grandad's sisters. BB – Jumbo seen in picture. Cockle basket and craam <sup>14</sup> . Fishing for Salmon with a net would be illegal. Pictures of cockle shrimps and flukes, "only whitebait missing."
1:03:46 – 1:04:24	DB and BB discuss picture of Prince Philip with Grandfather who was a guide to bring prince Philip from Lancaster to Silverdale and then Flookburgh. BB was "a brat".
1:04:24 – 1:05:48	Discussion of riddling shrimps on the sand. Legal requirement. Two-pence ha'penny or threepenny bit riddles, riddling techniques.
1:05:48 – 1:06:25	Favourite fishing - BB shrimps, DB – "Talking about it in t'pub". (everyone laughs) "There's been more fish caught in that pub than there ever has in t'Bay." BB - Salmon boring, cockling hard work, flukes – didn't like the baulk netting.
1:06:25 – 1:07:40	BB – whitebait fishing – shrimp net, but instead of tying the tail off you get a longer tail with a finer mesh, and a leading section with a bigger mesh, tops are buoyed, bottoms weighted, big steel stakes to set the net on the side of a channel. Net faces upstream catching fish on the ebb. November quiet star lit night the best. DB – extended period of calm weather, hopefully with cold (keeps caught fish fresh), and shoals of whitebait. Low tide, no wind.
1:07:40 - 1:09:40	Discussion of what are whitebait? – DB says different species, but depends on who you talk to. JB – Big whitebait are sprats. BB describes how whitebait are cleaned and sorted at home. Table with water on a slant. Everyone is wet. Flash frozen quickly at Young's.
1:09:40 – 1:11:00	DB talks about "our father and Albert" fishing. Albert Benson. Albert and Ally <sup>15</sup> , David Benson's cousin. Tommy, Albert and Ally were brothers. Tommy had his leg blown off. Went shrimping with a metal leg. Hook on one arm. Albert worked at Vickers, one of the best welders around. David Benson his son carried on at Vickers.

<sup>10</sup> Scar – local name for a rocky outcrop on Morecambe Bay

<sup>11</sup> Ilderidge Scar – pronounced here as "Itteridge Scar"

<sup>12</sup> Strike – the horse quickly extends forelegs to gain safe ground to escape from mud.

<sup>13</sup> Stream net - Stream nets are used in faster flowing water, in shorter lengths than drop nets or baulk nets, are made of stronger twine and use a shallower depth of mesh. Fish off the bottom as opposed to touching the sand.

<sup>14</sup> Craam – a three pronged fork with wooden handle about 3 feet long used for fishing for cockles.

<sup>15</sup> Ally – Alibaba – Alan Benson – helped develop tractor fishing and was also a jockey. See Manning, J.2016. It was Better than Working. p90.

1:11:00 – 1:11:20	Bensons were responsible for bringing tractors into the fishing on the Bay. DB – Ally did the development of tractor fishing.
1:11:20 – 1:13:50	DB tells a story of Ally and Les. Thinks it would be an Easter weekend, Young's had shut down, fishing for whitebait, originally whitebait frozen in home chest freezers. With bigger quantities they were taken to Young's. This weekend the freezers were nearly filled. Frozen into 1lb packs. A good weekend.
1:13:50 – 1:15:30	DB explains how he was paid by his father. One of father's sayings - "You get paid every time you sit down at that table." "Well paid." At about 13 DB learned how to negotiate his pay before he did the job. Four day's work for a four fingered KitKat.
1:15:30 – 1:18:00	DB – talks about his first use of the rotavator on a Massey Ferguson 35. Explains use of the clutch on the power take off (pto). Grandfather supervised. He nearly went through a hedge.
1:18:00 – 1:19:16	BB explains about tractor clutches and the pto.
1:19:16 – 1:23:40	DB tells of an incident with the Moggie 1000 <sup>16</sup> Traveller and a horse. BB tells of another time when father nearly lost some fingers when a horse trod on his hand. DB fell off a horse on Ravens Corner.
1:23:40 – 1:25:00	BB tells of sledging down the slope on the road. A cousin was sledging on the hill, Annie looking after BB. Parson's wagon on the road, and they hit the wagon and BB bit his tongue. A neighbour fainted on seeing the blood.
1:25:00	Break in the recording.
1:25:00 – 1:30:45	Interviewer asks about horses. BB – Owned his own horse when quite young. "Tom" was given to BB. DB didn't have his own horse. Family had 5 or 6 horses at one time. BB - Horses were generally bought from Morecambe landaus. Type of horse was a "light Vanner" <sup>17</sup> . Horses had quite a good life. One horse cannot easily do two tides a day. Horses were looked after as DB - they were a tool.
1:30:45 – 1:32:00	Horses had personalities. Stories of "Tom" told by BB. DB – After shrimping the horse would be disconnected from the cart. Mother would feed the horse with a bit of crust. One day the horse went down into the kitchen looking for bread and got stuck.
1:32:00 – 1:33:50	Interviewer asks if it was a close knit society, DB, yes. DB – "There was a lot of fighting, but if ever you needed help, there was help available." BB – Out on the sand, if the tractor stopped. Even your worst enemy would pull you home.
1:33:50 – 1:34:01	JB – "There was a bit of rivalry". "If one person went (to the sand), then everybody else had to go because they were frightened of missing something."
1:34:01 – 1:35:05	BB – When using horse, "when was it sand time, when is it time to go?" would be talked about. Four hours after high water, roughly, everyone has their tide tables. "15 minutes before the 4 hours one tractor starts up and it's like Le Mans."
1:35:05 – 1:36:14	DB explains about the best time to fish. Too early and the channels are too wide and too late and the shrimps are concentrated in the channel. All sorts of folklore and rivalry. Nets run over. JB – "I think most people were related some way or another."
1:36:14 – 1:36:44	Interviewer asks about any incidents of rivalry. BB – no deliberate sort of things, just sort of incidentals as you went along. Everybody was greedy. The whole point was, you were going to make money, and the more you caught, the more you got.
1:36:44 – 1:40:02	DB – "The old saying, if you aren't greedy, you'll never make a good fisherman." BB – "There'd always people who would give you a hand, and you'd do the same." My dad got stuck off Heysham. BB to hook up to him, and that tractor got stuck too. DB was there and Cedric picked them up. The tide went over both tractors, so we had to go back, with our third tractor and several mates. We got them out, but one of them the front axle got stuck in the sand. Tractor vibration liquefies the sand or mud, then it can set hard.
1:40:02 – 1:40:05	BB I have another story, but that would have to be off the record that one.
1:40:05 – 1:43:20	DB – back in the early days, when it was still wire rope, West Channel and West Ord (ph) channel could be up to ½ mile wide. Brian Shaw was down shrimping, and his chassis hit DB's chassis." I thought he was having a heart attack, I'd never heard him laugh before." This was about 6 mile out. Brian Shaw had a motorbike accident

<sup>16</sup> Moggie 1000 – Morris Minor 1000 Traveller - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morris\\_Minor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morris_Minor)

<sup>17</sup> Vanner – a type of horse used to pull light vehicles – now a breed - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gypsy\\_horse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gypsy_horse)

	and was disabled, but worked normally.
1:43:20 – 1:45:00	BB tells of an incident between Brian Shaw and himself while shrimping. BB was only a school boy and Brian Shaw was a full time fisherman.
1:45:00 – 1:46:55	BB - The same Brian years later, coming off at Sandgate, hits a bump and his boxes of shrimps were falling off the back, the tractor turned over and Brian was trapped under the tractor. Lucky he wasn't squashed as then they didn't have roll bars. Brian broke a leg.
1:46:55 – 1:48:46	DB – One tide, 16 or 17 (years old), set off shrimping in foggy weather. Three people Brian, DB and Cedric. They were going fishing in the Klondike over on the east side of the Bay. While trawling the fog cleared and we found we were off Bardsea church. They'd ended up in the west instead of the east. Easy now as you just take a GPS. In them days you had to know what you were doing.
1:48:46 – 1:48:55	BB – A similar story, but when the recorder switched off.
1:48:55 – 1:49:05	Interviewer, How did you learn to find your way across the sand? BB – “Learn or die.” DB – “If you go often enough you find out where you are.”
1:49:05 – 1:50:35	BB – If you go often enough, people were going regularly. When you go out with a tractor you leave two lines, and when you come back, you leave two lines. One tide going over it doesn't take away the marks on the sand. You get miles when there's just a shiny path. BB - Shrimping at night, you can see quite clearly in starlight where there's a silver ribbon. Now there's 3, 4 5 it doesn't leave the same trail.
1:50:35 – 1:51:42	DB - ..but, what you do have is probably the worst invention ever, the GPS. It's brilliant in some respects, but is absolutely tragic in others. DB – I was the first in the village to get GPS. I thought it was magic, at the time. If it was foggy it didn't matter. Then when that cockle boom came, people came from all over the world. They followed you once, with a GPS, and they've got the route there. Anyone can jump on a quad or a tractor and just go.
1:51:42 – 1:52:52	About 8 or 9 years ago, a lad from away, had gone for two weeks holiday. He came back one early morning and the channel had moved and he just went glug into about 15 feet of water.
1:52:52 – 1:54:36	Interviewer asks if it's more dangerous now with GPS being used. DB – Not for us, but people rely totally on the GPS, and you can't rely totally on the GPS, because the channels change. JB – it's shifting all the time, isn't it. Channels can move two or three foot between tides. BB - Over a period you can talk miles. DB – over a period of a month the channel can move from one side of Chapel Island to the other. BB - At the bottom of the Bay it's meandering all over the place.
1:54:36 – 1:55:44	BB – You look on a map, an OS map, it shows the channels, but they all move. Map is only right when it's first printed. JB – At Grange the tide used to come right into the promenade, but it went out and you got all that grass growing there over years and years.
1:55:44 – 1:56:05	Interviewer, is it just through experience that you get to know? BB – Yeah, you just make it up as you go along. (laughing)
1:56:05 – 1:56:30	BB - When we were kids there were a lot of people following the sand. People did get their own areas when it came to fluking. Jack Manning and his dad used to do a lot of fluking up the top end of the Bay. Most folk wouldn't go that high up.
1:56:30 – 1:56:42	BB – a lot of people doing it and a lot of people had a lot of kids, and a lot of kids went with them, you don't learn, you just absorb it. DB – It's part of growin' up.
1:56:42 – 1:57:26	BB – I have a pretty good sense of direction. We used to do it in the dark and it's quite funny how distances are different in the dark. You always think you've got there and you've still got quite a distance to go. You get used to allowing for that.
1:57:26 – 1:58:52	When you are looking over water, it never looks so far over water. DB - 6 weeks ago I had some nets out half a mile below Chapel island and one of the IFCA <sup>18</sup> officers had decided to do a check. He'd walked out and checked the nets. Ian - All you've got is flukes and plenty of them. It's further out here than you think, isn't it?
1:58:52 – 2:00:10	BB – When we were going with horses, horses walk about 5 and 8 mile an hour. It used to take us an hour or an hour and a half to get where we were going. If you are going down to Heysham, a couple of hours. Chapel island, less than an hour.

<sup>18</sup> Inshore Sea Fisheries and Conservation Authority - <https://www.nw-ifca.gov.uk/>

2:00:10 – 2:02:12	Interviewer – You mentioned a fisherman who used to fish with one leg and one arm. BB – Tommy Benson. He was a fisherman and he was a Red Beret <sup>19</sup> in the Second World War and he stepped on a land mine. He had an Invacarriage <sup>20</sup> , one of the little blue three wheelers. He was mobile. This was before most people had cars. He was a brilliant practical engineer. He learnt his trade at the shipyard <sup>21</sup> . (Vickers at Barrow) He did a lot to bring about the use of tralalas <sup>22</sup> . Austin 16 or Austin 12 <sup>23</sup> chassis for trawling with tractors.
2:02:12 – 2:03:12	BB - discusses the use of old car chassis for trawling for shrimps with a tractor. The body of the car was removed leaving the four wheels and the steering. When shrimping you turn the steering a few degrees. The steering is fixed during trawling.
2:03:12 – 2:04:05	DB - "Alibaba" did most of the use and Tommy did the modifications. Alan Benson's nickname was Alibaba. He used to go out and trial the gear more often. Albert did some of this. The Benson brothers weren't full-time fisherman. Tommy was a full time engineer. Not sure what Albert and Ally were.
2:04:05 – 2:05:30	Trawling with a tractor you have a tow bar that is about 15 inches behind the front wheel, that goes across the chassis, with an eye at either end of it. When behind the tractor the chassis is attached to a drawbar. The distance is quite critical. In the early days it was wire rope. With Courlene you pull it from a little bit further in front.
2:05:30 – 2:05:55	DB - That system has been exported all over the world. They actually had Nigerian fishery officers came and spent a summer here learning how to fish with tractors. That's a lot of years ago.
2:05:55 – 2:06:34	DB - Two outfits were taken to Southport. Historically they had always used cut down wagon beds. They could only go down so deep and when it was windy and waves they couldn't go. The best time to go is with wind and waves. BB - It's muddy.
2:06:34 – 2:07:05	DB – Fishing with a chassis you can go into deeper water. On bad days they couldn't go. BB – If you go to Southport now, they are still at it.
2:07:05 – 2:07:44	Interviewer asks if it was developed as a community. DB and BB agree. It was exported only by accident. You go and have a go at somebody else's shrimps. We were poaching somebody else's stocks. You get upset when somebody takes your stocks.
2:07:44 – 2:10:10	BB – It's time the Sea Fisheries did something about all this cockling. The cockles have lasted here, for generations. Nobody needed to shut the beds, because the fishermen knew when they were mature and when they weren't, and they did the right thing. Now the beds are worked out in a few days and it takes a long time for the beds to recover. DB - The last time the beds were shut for 8 years. We only just started last year. There was seasons in that eight years when you could have had good does. There must be 1/3 for stock for breeding, 1/3 for the birds and 1/3 for fishermen. DB explains about cockle bed viability for fishing.
2:10:10 – 2:12:20	BB – we used to go setting baulk nets for flukes and grandfather would have a cockle basket and craam, without a jumbo <sup>24</sup> and that would do for the family. He could find cockles anywhere. We have no control over the cockles we have to get a permit to go fishing. DB - £500 I have to pay to be able to go to cockle, if they open the beds, I've still to pay that £500 because if I don't I lose my license, and if you lose your license you have to go to the back of the queue. I had to pay £4,000 to not catch a cockle.
2:12:20 – 2:13:12	DB – Expresses a very strong opinion about shell fish licensing, but the others laugh. When the scheme was being set up - "I got landed with checking it through to see if it was sensible or not. They then charged me £40 to go and sit the test that I'd helped them set." (edited for strong language)

<sup>19</sup> A Red Beret is a member of the British Army Parachute Regiment.

<sup>20</sup> Invacarriage -Invacar - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invacar> Introduced in 1948 by Bert Greeves. Greeves were a British motorcycle manufacturer.

<sup>21</sup> Shipyard – Vicker's shipyard at Barrow in Furness.

<sup>22</sup> Tralalas – local name for cars with separate chassis – derivation of word not known.

<sup>23</sup> The Austin 12 and 16 had separate body and chassis.

<sup>24</sup> Jumbo – A fishing tool – a board mounted with two extended handles. It is used to liquefy the sand allowing cockles to float to the surface.

2:13:12 – 2:13:35	Interviewer asks if cockling was very hard work. DB – It is, if you do it properly. BB – It's hard work, yes. DB – It's very easy if you cheat and use a mechanical dredge. BB – We don't have mechanical dredges. DB – We do not agree with mechanical dredges.
2:13:35 – 2:14:23	BB – explains fishing for one cockle at a time with a craam. Flicking them out of the sand, into his cockle basket. When he's got his cockle basket half full he'll find some water and wash the sand off. Then they go into a bag. DB – No, no, then they go into the riddle. BB – In the good old days you only picked the decent sized ones up.
2:14:23 – 2:15:11	DB – When I was craaming with our father, we used a riddle. BB – Moving on from that. DB – At certain times of years there's sort of a moss that grows on the shell. Anybody can see the cockles.
2:15:11	End of track
<b>Track2</b>	
0 – 0:36	BB and DB explain the appearance of cockles on the sand. DB – Cockles are a syphon feeder, leaving an "eye" on the sand as the tide falls.
0:36 – 1:28	BB explains that jumbos removed the need to see individual cockles on the sand. Description of use of jumbo in fishing for cockles.
1:28 – 1:46	JB starts discussion of the size of jumbo that can be used. BD – originally 4 foot 6 inches, now 6 ft.
1:46 – 3:20	DB explains about the size of cockles that can be fished legally. 20 mm square for your riddle. "Our fathers were always 22." BB - 22 mm is 7/8 inch. Father was fishing off Baycliff, riddled cockles picked up by other fishermen. Fisheries <sup>25</sup> said this was legal. Local fishermen left small cockles for next year.
3:20 – 3:40	BB discussion about the effectiveness of the Fisheries. Discussing a photograph DB explains that all the fishing was done by "local folk."
3:40 – 4:07	DB - Train wagon loads were sent out from Cark station. Shunting yard at Cark. BB – cattle loading area is now Jehovah's Witness hall.
4:07 – 5:15	Scousers were fishing in the Bay during the time when father was fishing. Liverpool and Southport sands fishermen. Mainly professional fishing families.
5:15 – 5:30	DB explains that the price has gone up and we are one of the two beds that are open so fisherman will come here out of the area.
5:30 – 6:12	Interviewer asks about superstitions. DB – "When we were kids, no one ever worked on a Sunday" BB – "On six days shalt though labour, on the seventh do twice as much."
6:12 – 7:04	Discussion of drinking habits of father and grandfather. DB – father never BB – grandfather was a bit of a lad. BB – Grandfather had a lot of mates, including farmers. The farmers would go hound trailing, fox hunting and after they would always finish up in a pub. BB – Grandmother used to ground him for a few times.
7:04 – 7:40	Grandfather's mate was Frank Philipson, biggest farm from round here. DB- Another farmer was Whiteman. Ted Wilson at Cark.
7:40 – 7:58	DB – tells of a tale from Ted.
7:58 – 10:14	Interviewer asks about Grandmother. BB – "The boss." Very hard working. Gran would tell grandfather "what was what." Grandmother would make us pancakes.
10:14 – 10:54	BB – was very interested in aeroplanes and Grandma Butler paid 10 bob <sup>26</sup> for a pleasure flight at Squires Gate Airport, Blackpool <sup>27</sup> .
10:54 – 11:25	DB – Grandmother made our own blood puddings. BB – Slaughtered our own pigs in the back yard.
11:25 – 12:00	DB – Christmas she used to dress herself up in a Father Christmas outfit. She would go round the village as Father Christmas. Orange and sugar mouse for every kid.
12:00 – 12:08	BB – at 5 or 6 "Why has Father Christmas got Grandma Butler's wellies on?"
12:08 – 12:57	Other grandparents – they come from South Africa, photograph discussed. Originally from Yorkshire. Chapmans. Lived at 47 Avondale Road, Durban. Retired in the UK.
12:57 – 14:00	Interviewer asks about "your mum." BB – "South African." JB – She was a lady. DB – She thought she was a bit above, most of the time. She picked shrimps, sorting whitebait, can't remember her going to the sand, but grandmother did. JB – She

<sup>25</sup> Fisheries – as before the NWIFCA

<sup>26</sup> 10 bob – 10 shillings - UK pre-decimalisation.

<sup>27</sup>

	went to market a lot. DB – Kendal Market.
14:00 – 16:20	BB she was South African (spoken in a South African accent.) BB – she once got a fish box and made a sledge run in the snow at the back of the house. JB – She was keen on animals. BB – she looked after the pigs.
16:20 – 18:20	Interviewer asks if it was difficult for her to fit in, as an off-comer. JB – You were an off-comer if you came from the next village. I came from Barrow and an off-comer for 20 odd years. DB – Three generations.
18:20 – 21:04	Family traditions – DB – no traditions different those in the village. BB – hardest discipline. Our mother made us go to bed at 7 o'clock. All the other kids were called in. Dick Myerscough and Norman Barrett who were hawkers who bought all, their stuff in. They had an orchard. DB – They grew lettuces and tomatoes in a greenhouse. BB - Dick caught me pinching apples and father told me off for getting caught.
21:04 – 21:58	Discussion of problems with battery on the interview recorder.
21:58 – 22:58	DB talks about a bomber down on bottom banks that grandfather got the crew back from. BB – Explains about WW2 training airfields in the area. One in the village, one on Walney, Southport, and the Isle of Man. Kirkbride on the way to Scotland. One of the bombers crashed in the Bay and grandfather rescued them. DB – also airfield at Silloth.
22:58 – 25:10	JB – He brought a body back one time. BB – he brought a body back, many a time. They used to regularly bring bodies back. We had a garage that we weren't allowed in when there was a body in there. They used to get washed off the Irish ferries. DB – Our father brought home a monk. Albert picked up a woman who had fallen off the Isle of Man ferries.
25:10 – 25:45	Grandfather would pick up bodies and DB thinks there used to be a bounty.
25:45 – 26:30	BB – shows photo and discusses a boat from the Fylde washed up in the Bay and he got salvage rights for it. Reported bodies to police.
26:30 – 27:22	There used to be a Policeman on the square at Cark, George Cheetham DB – Mike Cheetham's father?
27:22 – 29:24	Other stories – BB – we have 70 years of them. Surprised that he survived. Health and Safety at work was not what it is now. We had it good. They were hungry until we were born.
29:24 – 30:09	DB – talking about coppers <sup>28</sup> , grandfather and eight rabbits.
30:09	End of track
<b>Track 3</b>	
0 – 2:45	DB – explains about his jobs apart from fishing. First job away from home, factory farm at Cark, Vitagrass, used to make feed for animals. Compressed grass pellets. Aged 17. Left grass drier and went to Glaxo for 14 years on shift work, then part time fishing, Then off-shore on Morecambe Bay gas field for 18 years, started when he was 32 (est.). Then did 10 years international. JB – Retired twice!
2:45 – 7:11	At Glaxo, DB was process operator. BB an engineering manager. Took readings. Company used solvents. Solvent recovery process to clean the solvents using various processes. Products are drugs. On one occasion some square tins came to Unit 3. The square tins contained heroin. Security was increased.
7:11 – 8:25	BB asked if he worked at Glaxo. DB – he was employed, he never worked. BB says he went for the lark <sup>29</sup> . DB a full-time fisherman 14 to 18, after that part-time. Working fishing full-time it wasn't easy to earn much money.
8:25 – 8:55	DB explains his thoughts on shopping for cars with a credit card. "You don't buy it unless you can afford it."
8:55 – 9:30	BB – One of our dad's sayings "If you've got money in your pocket, you can think about buying it. If you haven't got the money, forget it."
9:30 – 10:05	Interviewer asks the brothers what their lives are like now. – BB – he's just come back from the Bahamas, we've just come back from the Isle of Man. Back to the Isle of Man then holiday in Spain. JB – Our daughter lives in the Isle of Man, his son lives in the Bahamas. There's lots of travel. BB – It's murder (joking).
10:05 – 11:00	Enjoyments – JB – They race these silly motorbikes, the pair of them. BB when

<sup>28</sup> Coppers - policemen

<sup>29</sup> Went there for a "lark" – a humorous comment as BB was a manager not a "worker".

	younger we used to play with motorbikes. BB stopped messing with bikes when he was 17 and drove a car. Discussion of wearing tight jeans. He had to wear silk socks so he could get his trousers off when they were wet from motorcycling.
11:00 – 11:48	BB had been driving father's car around since he was in early teens. DB used to deliver and collect shrimps at 13. Copper turned a blind eye because it was work rather than playing. BB used to drive around with shrimps and husks <sup>30</sup> at 12 year old.
11:48 – 12:15	BB we went to Portishead near Bristol for a day out before motorways. We came back through Wales. Driving was something we just did.
12:15 – 15:15	BB explains he worked on DB's motorbike, fixed the bike and found that it was fast down the Mile Road <sup>31</sup> . Used to test motorbikes on the road. Suzuki T20 Super Six. Decided that they would go racing with it. First race Silloth.
15:15 – 16:50	BB first gave up racing in 1981. In about 2006 he decided to race again. Used to take daughter to races. Went to Aintree to a club race and met David Smith from Poole. In 1977 he was number 15 and I was number 16 in the Manx Grand Prix. BB and DB still "playing at motorbike racing."
16:50 – 18:50	DB explains his current interest in fishing. About 30 years ago I badly smashed my shoulder up when he was off-shore. About 18 months ago a muscle snapped and stopped his arm working. Now he is better, and will fish one handed.
18:50 – 20:40	Interviewer asks if you have to be a particular sort of person to be a fisherman. DB Greedy. BB - You've got to be deadly serious (joking) DB – self-reliant and self-confident and daft. It's hard work, cold and wet. DB – I enjoy doing it and competitive. Pays for the beer money.
20:40 – 23:02	Interviewer "So your father didn't drink at all?" BB he didn't go to the pub. Not a social drinker. Father wouldn't go to the pub because mother didn't want to go. They did go for bar meals. Father retired and died two months later. He was self-employed and never drew his private pension. JB and BB - she died last year at 91.
23:02 – 24:12	On life and their experiences, BB – If I had my time again, I'd make all the same mistakes, just make 'em a lot sooner. DB – Quiet a happy teddy bear. JB – We've done very well out of life BB - We're the luckiest generation there's ever been. Discussion of hard work and good luck. Good employers, good pensions.
24:12 – 25:56	Hopes for the future of fishing. BB – Grim, grim. (Joking) DB – Every generation says it will be the last, but people still fish. Young Tony in his 30s is a full-time fisherman, but a qualified joiner. Very few full-time fishermen except Michael Wilson. He still has some market garden growing.
26:56 – 29:46	DB – Enjoys fishing, but it's not lucrative. Fishing is boom and bust. To do well you have to be good. Says the regulations are for "boiling plants". Cockles go to two markets, live to the continent and bottling such as Parsons. DB – I don't boil them anymore. JB – They come with pantechnicons. BB - They have large HGVs with Spanish number plates and quad bikes take the cockles off the Bay. DB – Until recently the Dutch were the biggest buyers of shellfish.
29:46 – 30:10	DB – In those days it was a relatively local market. They'd load trains up and they'd go to the Lancashire mill towns. BB – They blitz them and then leave them for eight years.
30:10 – 34:00	DB – When they shut the beds eight years ago, Young Shakey <sup>32</sup> (ph) was sent back to riddle them (cockles), a large wagon wasn't asked to riddle the catch. DB – Relates a story about 1,500 "illegal" immigrants being allowed to fish. The beds were wiped out for eight years.
34:00 – 35:12	Cockle fishing regulation in the UK. DB – He has worked on the Ribble, Conway, on cockle beds. I've gone with a riddle and left the little ones. BB – Traditional fishermen do it sustainably. JB – They are having the same problem on the Isle of Man with queenies <sup>33</sup> , they come with dredgers.
35:12 – 36:16	DB – Historically off the South Americas, the bottom scars out from Barrow, view about dredging of seed mussels.

<sup>30</sup> Husks – the exoskeleton of shrimps after peeling.

<sup>31</sup> Mile Road – local name for Moor Lane, Flookburgh.

<sup>32</sup> Shakey – Phonetic spelling no written record available.

<sup>33</sup> Queenies – queen scallops – see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen\\_scallop](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_scallop).

36:16 – 38:30	Discussion about gang-masters and fishing. BB – One man may employ 40 men in a gang. Views about how the regulations may favour the gang-masters.
38:30 – 41:25	BB – Opinions about a Legionnaire's disease outbreak at Barrow, and the people who managed the equipment. <sup>34</sup>
41:25 – 42:40	DB – Opinions as to when the cockle beds should be open for fishing. BB – The legislation and regulation doesn't fit the need.,
42:40 – 45:36	Interviewer wishes to finish on something positive, happy memories or stories, - DB – Brian Shaw, he had three lads, Bryn, Jay and Dean. Cockling on Klondike side, swimming in the sea on a warm day, the tide flooded the pool and it was very cold.
45:36	End of track.

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<sup>34</sup> Seven people died – see - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002\\_Barrow-in-Furness\\_legionellosis\\_outbreak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_Barrow-in-Furness_legionellosis_outbreak)