

Interview notes

Interview 21-1

Emily Olson

00:50 Emily's family moved to the village when she was born initially to 65 Castle Rd and then to 18 Castle Rd which was a shop (ex. general store) which had been converted to a house. The house was next to the footpath across the golf course and backed onto the golf course. Emily relates how they used to collect golf balls when she was a child.

05:51 Emily went to toddler group in the Drift and then to nursery school at St John's. The family became good, long term friends with the child minder. She talks about the child minder and the "community" that developed round her.

08:08 Emily went to school at St John's and recalls events and happy memories there.

11:23 Emily talks in some detail about the village fair and how she looked forward to taking part in the children's section of the horticultural show making models in seed trays. She also describes how it changed over time.

15:09 Millennium eve party with fireworks. Village Millennium photograph. Tour de France through village. Children day off from school. Party in Redhill Rd.

16:39 Tour de France going through village.

19:15 Death of Princess Diana – streets absolutely deserted.

20:25 Brownies & Guides. Camping at Brownsea Island. The walk from Castle Rd to the Scout & Guide HQ, footpath past golf course.

20:23 VE Day anniversary.

25:40 Horndean College secondary school

29:58 Working in Londis (Castle Stores at the time) before and while at college and university.

28:58 Village Shops. Drug Store – wasn't a pharmacy no prescribed medications. Doctors surgery was next to Londis. General store up Bowes Hill. Stories about working in Londis (Castle Stores). Saving up for grand Tour. Shop had bakery and counter at the back that sold filled rolls. Made doughnuts and filled rolls. Lady Bessborough was a customer.

36:01 Time at St John's Sunday school. St John's Church hall now demolished. Birthday party in church hall.

38:01 Havant College careers advice, university and backpacking.

40:50 Business administrator with Portsmouth Council social services then trained for and became social worker.

44:50 Talks about getting married and about the restaurant next to the Fountain.

48:23 Joined WI after getting married went to meetings with mother and she was one of the youngest members at the time. Emily was living in Portsmouth at the time and it was a good way to keep in touch with the village. Although large age gap between her and the next youngest, she was made very welcome. Was asked to join the committee 18 months when Sarah Lee was president. Elected as vice-president in 2019 and president the following year while she was pregnant. Saw being president while pregnant as a challenge.

Talks in detail about interesting and inspiring members.

55:40 COVID. Remembers meeting when it first emerged. Had recently recruited 9 new members and then first lockdown happened. She describes how they coped through introduction of zoom meetings, Sept 2020. Challenge given the group's average age. Organised small meetings in members' gardens when restrictions eased – very popular and successful. Membership actually grew during lockdown, other Hampshire groups shut down. Talks of support from members when she had her daughter. This year is 75th anniversary of founding of group. Current membership 98.