

## Meryl Teague – recording 161023\_0044

- 00.14 Born at Sling, in Aunty's bunglaow where parents living
- 00.22 Move to Clements End at one month old to live with widowed grandmother
- 1.09. Father was miner at Princess Royal Colliery
- 1.30 Miner for Bernard James at Poolway, small mine at top of Bakers Hill, Coleford
- 1.45 Engineer, looking after trucks which bring coal up
- 2.00 Later worked for Fred Watkins at Sling
- 2.21 Self taught engineer
- 2.33 Surface work, not cutting coal so less risky
- 2.52 Father coming home dirty and dusty
- 3.00 Father travelling to work on bike and later in a van
- 3.28 Mother Eunice Jones, from High Nash, Coleford
- 3.43 Mother stayed home looking after the two children until teenagers
- 4.12 Mother worked at Carters on the production line making squash
- 4.25 Later work in canteen serving refreshments, total of over 20 years from when Meryl was 16.
- 5.01 Family meals; plenty of food, clear plate, meat and two veg
- 5.44 Father drank at The Miners inn, pub, standing at top of steps, never sitting down. Pub now gone.
- 6.00 Father keeping pigs, slaughtered, hung up, cured, old pantry salting stone
- 6.54 Father also kept chicken and hobby gardening; grew own veg
- 7.19 Fathers work at the mines regular providing regular income
- 7.30 Ellwood primary school from age 5,
- 7.43 Four classes of thirty per class
- 7.56 Teachers; Head teacher - Mr Harvey, Miss Parry from Bream, cookery.
- 8.17 Walking to school
- 8.31 Bells Grammar School from age 11.
- 8.40 Selection by entrance exam ; either went to grammar school or secondary
- 8.58 Grammar school free
- 9.05 School uniform – green with beret
- 9.17 Travel to school by bus – was in Coleford now in Berry Hill
- 9.39-Music and school productions – Gilbert and Sullivan Operas, soloist such as Katisha in Mikado, Little Buttercup (Pirates in Penzance) PICTURES
- 10.37 Performed originally in Old Town Hall, Coleford (now pulled down) and later at the Grammar School when had hall big enough
- 11.18 Left school aged 17, could have stayed on
- 11.35 First job working at Ribena Factory, Carters for 4 years in the office. Got the job because grandfather worked there – mothers dad
- 12.13 Grandfather one of the first people employed at Carters when first moved to Coleford. He worked in labs testing
- 12.50 Worked in wages department, no qualifications needed, trained on the job, purchase control, wages ledgers, tax
- 13.20 Office life; no computers, all by hand, records hand written, adding machine worked by hand
- 14.40 Met husband Stan who worked in coal yard near where she lived, He is from Clearwell. Married 1958
- 15.10 Continued to work for Carters. After 1 year of marriage moved to Clearwell
- 15.52 Five years at Carters then moved to Typrod in Lydney Industrial Estate. Big company which originated in Ruislip, Middlesex, another in Brighton; made rubber door mats
- 16.26 Clerical work, purchase ledgers. No new technology still handwritten
- 17.10 Travel to Lydney by bus ; walked to Sling from Clearwell to catch bus to Lydney No car when first married . Car several years later

17.59 Moved from living with Stan's mother to Grove Road, Lydney  
18.18 Stan also worked at Typrod. Worked first at coal yard at Clements End, then Carters checking the Ribena line  
19.20 Stan's job at Typrod was long distance driving for 20 years taking mats for vehicles to motor manufacturers such as Fords in Birmingham, Liverpool and London; there and back in one day  
20.15 set up own business –Ready Miix Concrete  
20.33 Move to Parkend in 1964,  
20.40 Birth of first daughter, Sharon, 1966, stayed home 1 year, returned to work, Stans mother looked after baby  
21.36 Bought house in Parkend, previous renting in Lydney  
22.04 Stan's first job, before aged 16 delivering coal  
23.00 Birth of second daughter, Hayley 1969, then returned to work  
23.45 Married at Coleford Baptist Church (1958) Lived in Lydney in Baptist Manse  
24.30 Working in accounting for Baptist minister who was part time minister and part time accountancy business  
25.05 Maternity leave not available in those days, mothers gave up work and no financial help available  
25.27 Children born in Gloucester, several days in hospital then, two days in Gloucester and then transferred to Lydney hospital for 7-8 days  
26.04 New role working with an accountant, doing tax, for the Minister, Eric Chilvers until 1990. He trained her on the job  
27.08 Accountancy office above 'Clifford Hughes' shop, Lydney, later he sold part of the business and worked from Eric's home. He died in 1992  
27.55 Took over the business, self-employed, former clients and new ones. Still doing it now with some original clients  
29.01 Working mothers; unusual at the time, Stan's mother lived with them and looked after the children  
29.25 Stan had his own business, Ready Mix, others did his books  
29.44 Stan retired aged 65  
30.09 Second world war; little impact on her as a child, very young, little impact locally  
30.20 Air Raid Shelter at Sling, near Miners Arms, memories of bombers and going into the shelter  
31.11 Ration books and first banana after the war  
31.34 Childhood Christmases, Christmas eve at grandparent's house, mother and grandmother staying up Christmas eve night to prepare the food  
32.20 Joined Girls Light Brigade Coleford age 11, became Sergeant,  
32.27 Similar to Guides with events and badges such as country dancing, badges, first aid, embroidery, sewing, crafts  
32.55 Girls brigade camp at Bexhill on Sea  
33.07 Had to be attached to Chapel unlike Guides.  
33.40 Baptist Chape,l Newland Street, Coleford. Chapel School alongside, now flats  
33.44 Hosting Youth Weekend Conferences with other young people from other Forest Baptist chapels  
34.08 Hosting West of England Conference; held in dormitories at school over a weekend  
34.28 Stan moved from Church of England to Baptist when married  
35.02 Attending Lydney Baptist Chapel, treasurer and Stan secretary  
35.47 Chapel location opposite Tesco's  
35.49 Congregation in upper age group, dwindling numbers, some new members  
36.22 Chapel alterations planned for 6 flats but no schoolroom, retain church area, entrance unchanged, aim to reduce overheads  
37.06 Historic chapel, listed building, so issues with planning permission  
37.19 Herbert Howell lived next door, plaque on his house, played the organ at the chapel  
37.45 Herbert Howells father played the organ there

38.24 Herbert Howells moved away and on visits played at Anglican Church not Baptist, link with Herbert Brewer at Gloucester Cathedral

39.00 Personal long standing attendance at chapel, no longer such strong tradition, affected by Sunday opening, going away for weekend, and new members put off by age of congregation

39.37 Her children went till aged 14-15 and attended Sunday school. No longer a Sunday school and no children currently go to the chapel as nothing to do

41.19 Coleford Girls choir, member for 6 years

41.39 Lydcroft singers, based in Lydney, a ladies choir; replaced Bream girls' choir

41.52 Pianist Muriel Gwynne Conductor Grace Knowles from Yorkley

42.26 Choir competitions at Cheltenham Town Hall, the 'gold Cup' Oxford, Llangollen **(PICTURES)**

42.50 Very successful, choir numbers - 25-26 people, few left so stable group

43.29 Brass bands -both daughters joined brass bands; Sharon aged 7. Hayley joined later Conductors, Keith Valerie, later Tony Higgins from Parkend Stan was Chairman, Meryl Treasurer, No previous family members played. Band going for 43 year in 2016.

45.58 Involvement in Parkend village - Carnival, treasurer of Memorial Hall, over 65s club.

47.19 Parkend Carnival was 47 years old in 2016. Still going strong.

47.39 Changes in the Carnival – little changed, same sort of things. People come to watch, problems with health and safety so fewer heavy vehicles and more smaller vehicles and decorated cars Children involvement in carnival is difficult because held of August and schools closed and people are on holiday as Bank Holiday weekend

49.06 Changes in Parkend village –The Square demolished and moved people up the hill to council houses **(PICTURE)**. Memories of Stan delivering coal to The Square.

50.42 Forestry school open when first moved to Parkend, attracted people from all over UK; recently taken over by Bristol Education.

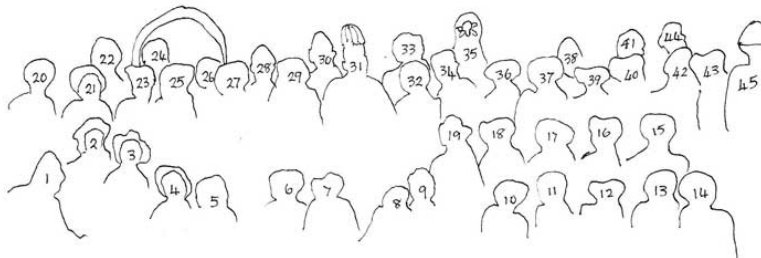
51.12-Car boot sales attract visitors. People used to book holidays for Carnival weekend

52.24 Work in the village is limited; many people commute. Remploy which employed disabled persons closed leaving only Saw Mill and Caravan sales

52.54 Other family members; 2 grandsons. Continuing musical tradition, two grandsons played in Parked and other bands including Lydbrook, The Flowers, forest Brass and take part in competitions. and continue. Enters competitions with The Flowers band

56.16 Still working in book keeping, challenges from slump in building but now picked up. Mainly works for small self- employed businesses.

**Photographs**

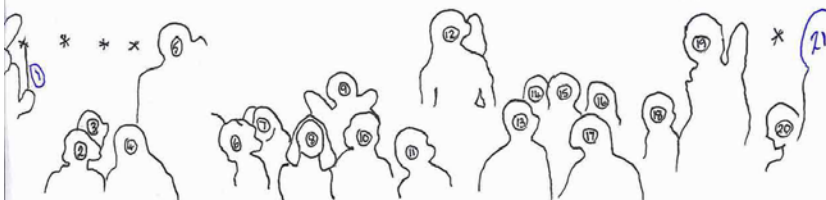


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The Bells Grammar School cast of Gilbert and Sullivan's the "Pirates of Penzance", performed in 1953

[http://www.sungreen.co.uk/Bells-Grammar-School/pirates\\_of\\_penzance.html](http://www.sungreen.co.uk/Bells-Grammar-School/pirates_of_penzance.html)

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Bells Grammar School Iolanthe 1952

<http://www.sungreen.co.uk/Bells-Grammar-School/iolanthe-1952.html>

## The Square Parkend



[http://www.sungreen.co.uk/Lydney/Parkend\\_TheSquare.htm](http://www.sungreen.co.uk/Lydney/Parkend_TheSquare.htm)

built as houses for tin plate workers in 1851  
prone to flooding from Cannop brook  
unusual square as only two sides

### Parkend silver band – date not given



Back left to right - Diana Hall, Tony Higgins, Mark

Jones, Richard Harris, Chris Gwynne, Brian Philips, Pete Bowery, Dean Turley, Heather Lee, Robert Hall, **Sharon Teague**

Middle row - Geoff Walker, Fred Pensom, Alan Walker, Adrian Ruck (conductor) Sharon Pensom, Jennifer Pensom, Keith Bowery

Front Row - Steve Higgins, Lisa Bowery, Paul Walker & Carole Pensom.

## NOTES

### Carters – The Ribena Factory

- H. W. Carter was established in Bristol in 1872.
- Bought by the Armstrong family in 1908.
- Moved from Bristol to Coleford in 1947.
- Acquired by Beecham Foods in 1955.
- Beecham Foods became SmithKline Beecham in 1989,
- SmithKline Beecham merged with Glaxo Wellcome in 2001 to become GlaxoSmithKline (G.S.K.)
- G.S.K. Coleford became [Lucozade Ribena Suntory](#) in 2014 "when Japanese global beverage company – Suntory Beverage & Food, the world's 3rd largest soft drinks company - acquired Lucozade and Ribena,

### Typrod

Typrod Millwood Ltd, 29, Lydney Industrial Estate, closed 1970

### Bells Grammar School

Amalgamated with East Dean Grammar School, Cinderford to form Forest of Dean College, Berry Hill, in 1968,

### Herbert Howells

Herbert Norman Howells CH CBE (17 October 1892 – 23 February 1983) was an English composer, organist, and teacher, most famous for his large output of Anglican church music.

Howells was born in Lydney, Gloucestershire, the youngest of the six children of Oliver Howells, a plumber, painter, decorator and builder, and his wife Elizabeth.[1] His father played the organ at the local Baptist church, and Herbert himself showed early musical promise, first deputising for his father, and then moving at the age of eleven to the local Church of England parish church as choirboy and unofficial deputy organist