

## Winslow Oral History Project

### Interview Summary

<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Margaret Lowrey (nee MacKenzie)</b>		<b>Date of interview</b>	<b>June 2011</b>
<b>DOB</b>	25-5-1932	<b>Place of birth</b>	Sheffield	
<b>Father's occupation</b>				
<b>Mother's occupation</b>				
<b>Interviewer</b>	Mary Hunt			
<b>No. of files (tracks)</b>	3	<b>Copyright status</b>	Fully cleared	
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>There are three separate files:</p> <p>A long one where Margaret recalls Winslow when she arrived, people she knew, her motor rallying activities, marriage and motherhood.</p> <p>The second file relates to Margaret being influential in getting bell ringing back at St Laurence Church after a period of inactivity.</p> <p>The third file is mainly about Margaret's involvement with and donation to the St Laurence Room refurbishment project.</p>			
<b>Key people</b>	<p>Joe Lowrey, Alan Wigley, Dr Rudd, Dr Murphy, Mr Bugg, Mr Anderson, Mr Eckersley, Mike Baker, Tish (Patricia) Ozanne, Alan Goodgame, Alan Wigley, Di Kemp, Maurice Newman, Hilary Thornton, Peter Thornton, Mr Liggett, McDonald Daley, Ursula Murphy, Frank Johnson, Tony Whalley, Becky Pryce, Gibbard, Arthur Hills, John Hearn, Jo Anderson, Sue Ellis, Louise Wetherall, Georgina Mellows, Chris Mellows, Di Slevin, Paul Bagni, John Hill, John Keen.</p>			
<b>Keywords</b>	<p>Rally driving, vets, doctors, cycling, bell ringing, badminton, squash, Park School Aylesbury, St Laurence Room, Flying Scotsman.</p>			
<b>File number and play point</b>				
File 003	<p>Margaret describes how she came to Winslow for the first time searching for a house after getting married. Her husband Jo had been to the same school as Alan Wigley (a Winslow businessman). Winslow was close to London, close to Silverstone, Malvern and the midland car industry. Jo Lowrey was a motoring journalist who had worked as Technical Editor at The Motor. He went freelance before getting married in November.</p>			
02.14	<p>The Lowrey's honeymoon finished at Nasau during the speed weeks when Margaret was offered a car to drive. She recalls the event driving V cars (Volkswagens with no modification to the suspension). Margaret had an accident, fractured her pelvis and flew home to Rowley Bristow hospital in England.</p>			
06.15	<p>Eventually in 1967 moved into 26 Station Road, Winslow. Alan Goodgame, an electrician, connected the cooker, rewired the house and sorted out a woodlice problem. Margaret's social life included playing badminton at Stewkley with Maurice Newman, who owned the delicatessen in Winslow Square, Di Kemp and Hilary and Peter Thornton.</p>			
09.45	<p>Margaret describes entering the Scottish Rally accompanied by Tish Ozanne. Asked about starting out in motor rallying Margaret recalls a fellow resident at Queen's College with a contact in the New 55 car club and her first experience of navigating. Margaret's father gave her an A30 so that she could join the car club. After her move to Winslow she continued to rally, including the Polish and</p>			

	Czech rallies.
14.14	Margaret recalls joining the Church when her daughter was born. She also belonged to the Aylesbury Lawn Tennis and Squash Racquets Club. Her daughter Corinne was born in 1970 and her son Alec in 1972. Alec had severe learning difficulties and attended Park School in Aylesbury near to the Manor Hospital on the Leighton Buzzard Road. Corinne attended Winslow School when Margaret thinks the head was Mr Liggett and she then went to Akeley Wood School with the children of the vet Mike Baker. A vet had previously owned Margaret's house – Mr Bugg, who kept turkeys as a sideline. The vets were Anderson and Bugg. Margaret thinks that the latter committed suicide. They had a surgery in Horn Street. Baker and Eckersley took over the practice. Asked about any remaining evidence of turkey rearing Margaret identified the remains of a huge Nissen hut in the garden and hooks in the garage where they were hung.
23.00	Recalling other people in Winslow Margaret mentions Dr Pat Murphy who organised events in the town. The Wigleys and Murphys attended a Ball at Stowe School with the Lowreys. Dr Rudd is briefly recalled as brusque but clever. The McDonald Daleys were into dogs and Margaret thinks he may have been a judge at Crufts. They lived at Plough Cottage on Horn Street. He died in a car accident. Dr Murphy played golf and his wife Ursula was a qualified nurse. It is possible that Drs Rudd and Murphy had been in the navy together.
27.26	Margaret mentions that Jo Lowrey took part in the Mobil economy runs. Before they were married Margaret entered an Austin 7 mini in an alpine rally. At dinner she met Jo and their courtship followed.
29.13	Asked about cycling, Margaret remembers that at the beginning it was influenced by her daughter needing a bike and being persuaded by the shop owner to have something slightly better than she had intended - a Dawes Galaxy or Supergalaxy. Margaret went cycling with her daughter. She was unable to walk far because of her hip injury. Margaret explains why cycling clubs always went out on Sundays. The Cycling Club in Winslow, which Margaret started in the early 1980's, usually had about 8-10 people going out, usually women. Margaret remembers starting the Historic Churches cycle ride in Winslow (Frank Johnson was the Vicar) and it being taken over by the Historic Churches Trust. Winslow Cycling Club is no longer in existence.
Lowrey 004	Questioned about her involvement in bell ringing in Winslow Margaret remembers that Becky Pryce, a ringer, considered that the bells were not safe. She mentions the Gibbards and Arthur Hills the butcher, who were bellringers. Around the Millennium churches were encouraged to get their bells ringing for the year 2000. Margaret asked the Vicar, Frank Johnson? Margaret had to go to Great Horwood to learn but quickly moved to Stewkley where tuition was better – Bunce Scott was the teacher there. Margaret mentions various ringers when bell ringing was getting started again in Winslow: Jo Anderson, John Hearn and Michelle, Louise Wetherall, Sue Ellis, Georgina Mellows husband Chris, Di Slevin one of the present Tower Captains. Mentions the Vicar, Tony Whalley briefly. There are now about a dozen ringers in Winslow.
Lowrey 005	Margaret is asked about her involvement in fundraising for the St Laurence Room refurbishment. She remembers a lot of coffee mornings and going out into the Square to drum up trade with her handbell. Paul Bagni was project managing the refurbishment and John Hill, a local architect, did the drawings. Margaret donated a significant amount of money following the death of her husband and explains why she did this. Margaret is now moving away and has

	<p>sold her house to a property developer who she asked to donate money to the St Laurence Room project. She believes there are plans to erect 10 dwellings on the house site. Formerly there was planning permission for 16 – approved before the Lowreys bought the house. There is one acre of land and Margaret has help in the garden from John Keen.</p>
	<p>Briefly questioned about Winslow and how different it is now Margaret remembers the railway and going to visit her parents in Cambridge from Winslow Station. She recalls hearing the Flying Scotsmen going by and believes it to have been going to Wolverton for a refit.</p>