

START OF TRANSCRIPT

Val: ...but the reason I enquired was even [Muriel] next door, she's saying – she thought, I don't remember the forge being like that. I thought the free press had got the picture of the forge muddled up you see. Because, I mean, the forge I remember, give it one good push and it'd have dropped down. [Laughter]

Geoff: Yes, yes, I think that's right.

Val: Are you Spalding people?

Geoff: No.

Shirley: No.

Val: No, I didn't think you were.

Shirley: We've lived here for 10 years now, we came in 2001.

Val: Oh yeah, where do you come from?

Shirley: Well we started off in Kent, we were both born and bred in Sidcup in Kent. When we got married, we moved down to the Medway towns in Kent and down to Gillingham and Rochester and then we moved up to Essex and we had 10 years in Essex and now we've had 10 years in Spalding.

Val: Well, as I always tell people, I was born on the river bank – in a cottage, mind you.

Shirley: In Spalding [unclear], Spalding?

Val: Yeah.

Geoff: So where The Anchor is, the one that burnt down...

Val: Yes.

Geoff: Just along from there, wasn't it?

Val: Between there and the West [Ludlow] Bridge there's a little garage left, isn't there...

[Over speaking]

Val: ...and this side of it used to be a white bungalow – a white house, cottage, till a [few] year ago, and then the next cottage was my parents' but I was born – where the council houses are, there's one there with a big – I think he's a radio ham because there's a great big nasty...

Geoff: Yes, a big aerial, yes.

Val: There was a load of cottages down there, before all those houses were built, and I was born at me auntie's house, across the way. But my parents lived on the river bank and that, you know.

Geoff: What sort of size houses were they? Because it doesn't look very deep, that part of it. I mean, The Anchor's not very deep in terms of...

Val: Oh, there was only cottages, two-up, two-down.

Shirley: I was brought up in...

[Over speaking]

Geoff: So that was like that? Yeah.

[Over speaking]

Geoff: I suppose you've got the river out the back, haven't you really, excellent.

Val: Yeah, and as I say, I mean, I remember the forge just as a child would do, with a cobble floor and everything else and the horses being there chained – you know, you've got the big ring where they used to fasten them up to while he was – if he was seeing to one, one would be chained up and that – and the smell.

Shirley: Yes, there must have been quite a smell.

Val: Bits and bobs all hanging from the beams in the ceiling, that's all really. It was them sort of things.

Geoff: Yeah, but that's fascinating because kids today wouldn't know about that.

Val: Oh no, you used to stand there and then next door was [Rumsey's] Fish Shop – have you been to see that lady?

Geoff: Not yet, no, I rang her up but she wasn't there, so I couldn't organise...

Val: No, [unclear]. Well she's Rumsey's daughter-in-law, I think you'll find.

Geoff: That's right, yes that's right.

Val: She's Harry's wife and that.

Geoff: Yeah, she lives in London Road, I think it's the big house...

Val: Oh, London Road, does she?

Geoff: The big house that sits back and was originally a little B&B or a little

hotel.

Val: Oh, I thought [Laura Lake] lived in a bungalow opposite The Birds, there.

Geoff: Oh, well – we're going to go and find out. It's 10 London Road she lives.

Val: Oh, 10 London Road.

Geoff: Which I think is the one which is the house...

Val: Who's the lady you're going to see? Is it not...

Geoff: Mrs [Herd], I think.

Val: Herd, oh, it's a big house that [unclear] back?

Geoff: Yeah.

Val: Oh yeah, she was Pam Jenkinson.

Geoff: Oh right, okay.

Val: Yeah, she was Pam Jenkinson.

Geoff: So she was – that was first marriage, was it?

Val: Oh no, love, no she's only been married once. No, I thought when you said it was her daughter – was it you spoke to me, you said it was her daughter?

Geoff: Yes, I – all of the...

Shirley: Daughter-in-law.

Geoff: Daughter-in-law, or – as I say, it's...

Val: I don't know where she comes into that. Mind you, I mean, I don't know all the relatives and that. But as far as I know, Rumsey's had one daughter, [Jean], they fostered or adopted in, was [Harry Lake] and his wife – he's died, but his wife lives in a bungalow – you know where The Birds is, the – well, it's a Hungry Horse now, isn't it?

Geoff: Yes, I know what you mean, the pub, yeah.

Val: When you come at the bottom, up Albert Street, there's a bungalow, [slosh ways] and then one on the straight and she's the first one on the straight to look down – Low Road, I think.

Geoff: Yeah, I know where you mean, yeah.

Val: It looks down there. Now she is the daughter-in-law of Rumsey's Fish Shop.

Geoff: Right, so the Rumsey – Mike Rumsey, who we used to know, I wonder how he fits into the...

Shirley: I don't know. I mean, maybe it's a common name, I don't know.

Geoff: Fascinating.

Val: Well Rumsey's, they only had – as far as I remember, they only had Jean, that was the daughter, and they had Harry Lake, who they took to, but Harry didn't go to Australia with them. They sold up and all moved to Australia, but they're all dead now. Harry's died, Jean's died, Mr and Mrs Rumsey are, but Laura, as I say, lives at that bungalow...

Geoff: Oh okay, yes, well there's someone else to follow up who'll know a little bit more about the family and...

Val: Yeah, they'd know – she'd know about the Fish Shop, more than – and...

Geoff: So [Geoff] and – I presume you knew Geoff's dad, as much as you knew Geoff?

Val: Yeah, he was a – you know, I can remember an elderly chappy sort of doing the irons and everything else and shovelling the coke and whatnot in the fire. I can remember another old chappy there, but whether he would be Geoff's granddad or whether it was a helper...

Geoff: I would think it's probably his granddad.

Val: I don't know.

Shirley: But yes, that's what I was wondering, yeah.

Geoff: Yes, would it be his granddad?

Val: I don't know.

Shirley: Yeah, I think so.

Geoff: Because in the picture that's in the paper, I think that's Geoff's dad and his granddad. They're doing – the two that are doing the shoeing. The two people holding the horses are, presumably, whoever – who the horses belonged to.

Val: Who it belonged to, yeah, and the [unclear] and that, they used to bring them along. Because there used to be, at the top of High Street, just before you got to the bridge, there was a pub there called the White Lion. Somebody in them days called Mark Thorpe owned it and he'd got stables at the back. Because he used to go to the market on a Tuesday and horses and

things, you know. So I think he used to take them down High Street to – but, I can remember the Chain Bridge, it used to be like a mangled handle in the middle.

Shirley: I remember mangles, yes.

Val: I do, I had one for years.

Shirley: Monday morning, yes.

Val: I had one for years, and that. In fact, it's not that many years since, since I got rid of mine.

Geoff: You used to have to go to **Geoff** – or you took it to the forge for the handle, didn't you?

Val: Yeah, you did. We used to stand on it as kids – I mean, we weren't supposed to do, but we did, it used to give us a ride – and swung it round, for the barges to come up and down to go to [Ploughman's] and then up the road.

Geoff: And [Burch's], was that up there?

Val: Burch's, that's right, yeah. There used to be Ploughman's and Burch's there and there was like a little wharf where they pulled in, and that, but they used to go up one way and back again because of a high bridge, they couldn't get no further up [unclear]. It wasn't wide enough for them to turn round, so they went up and back.

Geoff: Then they went into a little inlet where Westlode Street is and turned round there?

Val: Westlode Street...

Geoff: Near where the fire – just the other side of the fire station.

Shirley: Where the police station is.

Val: I don't remember, but they could have possibly, because there was a – like a little wharf there for them to pull up to the side. Well it wouldn't be dead straight, see, you'd go – sort of pull in a bit, in case anything else was coming up and down the river.

Geoff: Was going past, yeah.

Val: So possibly. I mean, they could have turned round, but a lot of them seemed to go up and down. I never ever seen any turn round, but, I mean, you could miss it, couldn't you.

Geoff: No, it's just what I've been told, that's all. They used to go into a little inlet, where Westlode – when it was open as a river that Westlode River coming into the Welland there, and they used to go up into that and then back round again to go back out.

Val: Yeah, I mean they could have done, same as the other side, where the brewery was, because there was another forge and that down Tower Lane. But that, I think, belonged to the brewery, because a big chappy worked there, Harry [Howland] his name was, because where the brewery was at the front, there were some little cottages and then Tower Lane and there was the forge...

Geoff: Along there.

Val: ...down there. Of course, in them days, they all used to be drays and that for the beer and what have you. I think – and there was a cut in there and I think the barges used to come the other way, then up to the brewery. I'm not sure because I didn't go that end of town when I was younger.

Geoff: Because I think it's fascinating how when you were young, the hub of the town was up round the forge and the High Street was very much a high street. But it's gradually moved into the Corn Exchange and...

Val: Oh, no, no. It's always been like it is – well, I mean, tell a lie, it moved a bit more going on because there was Ploughman's and Burch's and – but there wasn't shops – there was one shop – no, two or three, sorry. There was, there was [Darwell's] at the top now I come to remember, at the top of the High Street, they was coal merchants. Then there was another little shop, I forget what it was, but it was then turned into the very first milk bar in Spalding.

Geoff: Really?

Shirley: That must have been...

[Over speaking]

Val: ...James [unclear].

Shirley: ...in the '50s was that?

Val: Late '40s.

Shirley: Yeah, just after the war.

Val: Yes.

Shirley: When milk bars came in.

Val: Milk bar came in, that was American, you know, so after the war they all had milk bars and that and we used to go there as teenagers, you know, and whatnot, thought we were the dog's

dinner and [laughs]. It's funny how things happen, and then you suddenly remember, oh so and so was here then. No, it was – but it's always – the market has always been where – New Road, where the cattle used to be, and then coming up into Hall Place and the Corn Exchange.

Geoff: Right, it just seems that – I was talking to **Geoff** and he sort of – I got the impression that there were a lot more businesses round in the high street – because he went – he locked himself out the other day and he walked round and within 100 yards of where the forge [was], he listed – maybe a

bit bigger than that – but he listed about 50 different businesses and things that were going on in that area of town.

Val: Well there was the forge and then that side of the forge was the chippy, on the other side of the road was the...

Geoff: Was it [Co-Op]?

Val: ...the Co-Op. Then there was what you called Laws Yard, there was one or two cottages and then you went into a big yard, there were several little people with garages and different things. [Unclear] that was possibly [Tommy Laws] – it had something to do with Tom Laws the butcher.

Shirley: I was going to say, when you said Laws, I thought is that the butcher family, and when you said Tommy then I thought, well yes it's T, [of course] it is.

Val: Ah, but that was the old man, that wasn't the...

Shirley: Not the one that's now, but obviously, yes – oh no, it wouldn't be age wise, yes.

Val: That's – I'm trying to think of what his name was – the lads that got it now, they're the great grandchildren of Tommy.

Shirley: Oh, but they are still Laws, yes.

Val: Yeah, but the Laws used to live in the big house on Albion Street, what – I don't know whether it still is – it's Swallow's, the dentist.

Shirley: I know where the dentist is but I wouldn't know the name of the dentist, but...

Val: No, well where that dentist is, just more or less opposite Chain Bridge now – because Chain Bridge is a little bit further up – that used to be old Tommy Laws' house. Then where the forge was here, across the road -the Co-Op used to be there and here, I think they used to call it Rose Cottage, because it was a little olde worlde cottage.

[Over speaking]

Val: Then like a cheese wedge sweetie shop, what was Mr Godfrey's and his wife.

Geoff: Yes, I've heard about that, yes.

Val: Penny chews and things like that.

Shirley: Yes, [Alex] talks about that.

[Over speaking]

Val: Then behind that, on the front of Commercial Road, there was – I don't know whether it was a cottage and then a tall shop which was Mr Seaton, the bakers.

Geoff: This is where you were telling me about the little penny loaves...

Val: [Unclear] the bread ... yeah. They used to be like a little ball of bread and when he'd done his baking – his bread – he had a big old wicker basket like this, all stood in the doorway and he used to make – you used to see him cut them off and just roll them like this, in the oven they'd go, and then

when they was finished, he used to bring them out and just drop them straight in this basket. If you was at the right time, you got them warm, if not they'd gone cold by the time you got there.

Then we used to stand and make a little hole, pull all the dough out the middle and then go to Rumsey's shop, by the time we'd got from there to Rumsey's, we'd eaten the middle out and she'd fill it for tuppence with chips. So we used to have a chip butty then.

[Over speaking]

Val: ...oh many a time, many a time. But I don't – if you're recording it, I don't think I ought to tell you this next bit about the bridge.

Geoff: Go on.

Val: Just switch it off [laughs]. As I say, I wasn't – really wasn't very big when I was first married. I was only about [seven stone] so you can tell [unclear]. This particular night, me and my husband, we'd got a tandem by then, and he did say he wanted to see this film. Well, we were

running late and [unclear] well I put a pencil slim skirt on, you know what they used to be, with a great big slit up the back...

Shirley: That's right, yes, you waddled rather than walked.

Val: Yes, that's right, it made you walk [funny]. Of course, we can't do this and then he said, oh we'll go on the bike, we'll miss the first bit of the picture if not. So I said, oh, I said, I can't go like this, I can't get on it. I said, I'll go and change, he said, you haven't got time to change, come on. Well auntie [unclear] that was in the house and they both came to the window to see how I was going to get on this tandem, because it was a man's back and front. So...

[Over speaking]

Val: ...Rumsey's at the fish shop, his brother used to live across the road from us, you see. So we went outside Rumsey's again and he got this tandem and he bent it right down, like this, I just lift me leg up like that and he slid the bike [laughs] – he slid the bike up me like this, until I rose up with the back of the bike. Well we were okay until we got to the Chain Bridge. Now, I have never known to this day where that policeman came from...

Shirley: No, of all the times.

Val: He was behind the post of the bridge where this mangle went. Well we never saw him at all and you weren't supposed to ride across the bridge. You could take a bike across, but walk it.

Shirley: Not to ride it, yeah.

Val: No. Well of course, with all this fiddling, Ray said...

Shirley: You wouldn't get off.

Val: ...sit on, I'll push you over. Well, out come this policeman, right in the middle of the bridge, and he said, off. I said, I can't get off. So he said, I'm telling you, off that bike, you're not to ride across. I said, I'm not riding, he's pushing me. Well we had a big barney, you know, and like that he said, I've told you, off. So I said, oh there's nothing for it, and I thought, well he can't bend the bike down because it wasn't wide enough and whatnot. I thought, oh, there's nothing for it at all. Shut your eyes

[Val] and think of England. So I got hold of my skirts like this, pulled them up, stepped off the bike, I walked over the bridge, I got back on the bike, pulled me skirt down and off we went to Savoy pictures. Ray said, I couldn't believe what you did. He couldn't believe I did it. I said, well I was so annoyed at him, I said, making me get off that bike. I said, I wasn't biking, you were pushing me. I was so annoyed, I said, oh all right then, and – you know – and off I stepped and off I went.

Shirley: Good for you.

Val: No, there are lots of things you do remember...

[Interruption]

Shirley: You need a prompt sometimes...

[Over speaking]

Shirley: They're all there, they're in our memories, they just need a little bit of prompting to go, oh yeah, I remember that. Then it goes on from there, then, because you've remembered that and then it goes on.

Val: But the worst thing I do remember of the forge, and any horse that used to be about, was my auntie. She always like the horse manure for her mushrooms because she used to have like a double box with hay and horse manure and that in the bottom and then this other mixture – I don't know what it was – on the top, and then her mushrooms used to grow, you see, in the top box because the heat rose, you see. She used to have this in the shed and of course she liked her rhubarb and one thing and another and mum used to like to dig the straw and everything else in the garden for manure, how it was in them days. I always – if auntie knew there was a horse about, I had to go with the bucket and the dustpan out there and shovelling it up. Well you can imagine a girl of about 11 or 12, I mean it wasn't very dignified walking up there with a bucket and dustpan and that shovelling horse manure. But auntie was a very, very kind lady, but she was also very strict. If she said no, she meant no. She was a bit Maggie Thatcher type, put her foot down and you did not go against her. But if you were in trouble or you wanted anything or babysitting, whatever, she was there for everybody. Anybody that went to the – because everybody called her auntie – and she was always there. But oh no, I used to hate it, hate the job. She used to say, there haven't been no horses, have there? I said, no, no.

[Over speaking]

Val: ...as I got older, there were never no horses as I got older.

[Laughter]

Val: That's years ago. [Now there are] – they're big cottages, all the way along that river bank, years.

Geoff: Then from the forge back into town, what was – was that just river bank?

Val: Sir John Gleed's house was on that side, there was nothing there, then there was nothing else then until you got to Burch's and then Ploughman's was a little bit further up, I think. Elsoms was there – you know, Elsoms [and people], they was there. Then there was another big house on the corner of Holland Road, which has been – front bit's preserved but the back bit was the unemployment exchange and tax office and all of that, that was a garden.

Shirley: Yes, the awful looking building, yes.

Val: Then used to come Dr [Monroe's], the big house and then Ploughman's, as I say, and then there was the doctors again, then there was Johnsons, the agricultural people, then there was Mark Thorpe with the White Lion and then, as I say, there was a house – tall house, right up to the pavement edge. Then [Douggy James]' milk bar and then there was Garwell's on the corner, the [corn] merchants. Then it was High Bridge, but all that side of the river, I can't remember from the forge up to the top that there was anything there.

Geoff: So that was always as it is today.

Val: Yeah, that's more or less as it is now. But it's the other way, when they started. They started this side of – yeah, I don't think there were any houses there. It was where The Anchor is – I [unclear] one or two cottages this side, then The Anchor, then there were several cottages and I think there was a little chip shop there, somewhere. Then you went down as far as the garage and then I don't think there were any more houses until we got to the bridge.

Geoff: Was there a pub further along there? What was it called?

Val: There was the Barge pub, that was opposite – you know where there's a hairdressers and a spa shop or something, and then there's a big house, that used to be the barge pub. Then as the Barge pub is there, there's a little slip road goes round to some houses at that back – is that called the Barge?

Geoff: I don't know.

Val: It's a road way, anyway. That, there, they were all cottages back there. Then there were some cottages that came, as I say, where we lived on the front of Commercial Road, but there were also cottages at the back. Then came Albert Street and then – I forget what was on the corner but then – I think they pulled it down and they built a shop on the corner. Then there was another tall shop which I think is a Chinese now...

Geoff: Yes, I know that.

Val: It used to be [Lammy's] post office. Then there was another little shop which is – I think it's a Portuguese cafe.

Geoff: Yes, it is.

Shirley: Yes it is, yeah.

Val: It used to be – the tall one [like this] was Lammy's and then another one sort of went that way and up, like a bungalow type of thing, it went about two or three steps down. I forget who [unclear] but it then was sold as somebody sold wallpaper and paint there. Then came – oh dear, what was his name? Mr – no, his name evades me. It then went to Norman Baker, the antique bloke and then came The Vine pub.

Geoff: Oh right, so that's where The Vine – yeah.

Val: Then The Vine pub, then there were some more little cottages and then you came up to Mr Seaton and then up to that corner again.

Geoff: So when you lived down that end with mum and dad, whereabouts did you go to school down there?

Val: The council school, what is now the police station.

[Over speaking]

Val: When we went it was called the Council School, but then it went to the Westlode and now it's the police station.

[Over speaking]

Val: Next door to that was – well, both sides, there was little wooden shops one side of it, I forget who was in the first one, there was a lady in the middle that sold sweeties and I don't know whether there was another one there, not quite sure. I know there was two or three just one side of it – of the gates and then used to come a couple of houses and then a big yard, which was

Masseys, and they did agricultural bits and bobs and mending tractors and things like that, Masseys did. Because in them days gone by, you used to have the accumulators, didn't you, for your radios.

Shirley: Yes, we were talking about these the other day.

Val: The old accumulator.

Shirley: I did, on – with the wireless, yeah.

Val: That's right, yeah.

Shirley: I used to have to take – I was the youngest...

Geoff: You didn't take your accumulators to the forge to be done? Because in there he's got a bit of equipment for charging accumulators and I – didn't you?

Val: Well I never knew he did them until you just said. No, everybody took them to Masseys and that. I do remember, I got – my mum said to me, oh, we haven't got a battery for tonight, can you – nip up quick with your bike, she said, before old Masseys shuts. She said the spare battery's up there. Well of course I nipped up on my bike and of course the acid slops about and it dropped on the end of my skirt, burnt two or three little holes in and then I got one or two on my tight – well, no tights, because we had stockings in them – tights wasn't invented, they were stockings – and that.

So I didn't have a very profitable evening, taking [unclear]. Because it slopped about in my basket and the acid dropped and that. Then the other way was the [steel vaults], which is now The King's Head.

Shirley: I know The King's Head, yeah.

Val: Then there was a little shop called [Jinny Sparks], a little old lady used to keep that.

Shirley: Yes, Alex talked about Jinny Sparks, yes.

Val: Yeah, Jinny Sparks. Then came – now what was his name? Was it – oh dear, he used to mend bikes and all of that, bike mender. It was his house, really, like hers was, but she had like a sweetie shop and whatnot, whatever, in her front room and that.

Shirley: Yes, we've heard people talk about Jinny Sparks and...

Val: She used to make pop and whatnot. She had a gas bottle to put the fizz – she used to put the water in and the colouring and whatever – however she used to make it – in these little bottles like this, penny they used to be, penny bottles of pop...

Shirley: Yes, [John]'s talked about those, yes.

Val: Then she used to put the fizz in and that and have them in a little tray. Us kids used to go and get them, a penny bottle of pop and that.

Shirley: Yes, we've got two friends...

Val: Then there used to be another – now, I think it's for people that – they can't manage on their own, they're a slightly backward type of people, bless them, they can't help it. That's the only way I can explain them, you know, a bit slow on the uptake. They have a place there, don't they, and live there. That used to be The Crown pub back then. Then there used to be – oh dear, what did his name used to be? There used to be a house at the end, then there used to be a bay windowed house and – the sister was a cookery mistress at the Gleed school – oh, I've forgotten her name now. Then there was a long driveway

[cut],
a proper cart track down to some things at the back. Then there was some more shops and bits and bobs and cottages along there until you got to further up. Mr Nicholson used to be at the corner, which is now the Indian shop – Indian restaurant was Nicholson's.

Geoff: Oh yes, okay, we're right up by the traffic lights.

Val: At [Pinchbeck] Road.

Val: Then between the – and as I say, these cottages, there was [Catlins], they sold clothes, working clothes and that. Then there was – I don't remember how it got that nickname, but [Donkey Sherods] – the Sherods used to be there. Then was some cottages – houses, and then cottages, then you come up to one, two, three and there used to be a little sweetie shop. Then there used to be – oh, now what was his name? Names evade me – then there used to be a little pork butchers, then the Salvation Army and then Mr Nicholson's and his bakery was in between, at the side. Where that side door is, there was a – he used to bake his own bread, you see, and go on the rounds and that. Then his shop was on the corner.

Geoff: So when you got married, were you in the same area of town? Or did you move from...

Val: Oh no, love, I got married from – because we lived down Willesby Road. We went in, they were new, brand new those houses, because the council -what you would call this day and age, storm clearance. They pulled all those cottages down on the...

[Over speaking]

Val: ...on Commercial Road and built those council houses. Then they built Willesby Road, Royce Road and Edward Road more or less one after the other and it was a toss-up which one got finished first, where we went out of our cottages. Of course, at that time, Willesby Road was done so we all went into Willesby Road. That's how we got to Willesby Road. That's in the days when you could write your name on the – which uncle Jack did – he went, wrote on the wall, please reserve this house for J W [Mires], 61 Commercial Road [laughs]. Mr [Turnall] who lived next door to us on Commercial Road, he put – he went next door, because it was a four bedroom one next door because he'd got more children, and he wrote, save this for Walt Turnall, as I want to still live next door to Jack, on this house. We got them. The rent was three and thrupence. But by the time auntie was a widow and she got 10 shillings a week widow's pension, the rent had gone up to nine and ninepence. So she had three whole pence left. Some of these today, really, want to – they haven't got a clue what they're talking about, not a clue. Talk about housekeeping, well this here council, well, I don't know how their bank account adds up each month, the way they go onto the town...

Shirley: With a little bit of this and a little bit of that, yes.

Val: Oh yeah.

Shirley: My mother – my father died when I was – when he was 46 and because my mother wasn't the right age, she was too young, she was a 10 shilling widow, as they were known, weren't they?

Val: Yeah.

Shirley: I was still at school, I was only 15 and my eldest sister was married, my middle sister got married a couple of years after dad went and – yeah. I mean, our rent was more than the 10 shillings, that wouldn't rent a week. So how you could expect to live on 10 shillings...

Val: Well my mother...

Shirley: Or 50p as it would be now.

Val: Well as I say, it would do some of them good in this day and age to have what we had, because it would learn them.

Shirley: It would indeed.

Val: I think the Government's too soft with some of these young girls. I mean, they have a different boyfriend every week and I mean, if it didn't take you nine months to have a baby, they'd be having one every other month, wouldn't they? If they were born as quick as that, some of them -they would, it's true. Some of them, you'd be right overrun. They haven't got no more sense than [mice] a lot of them. I mean, nowadays and age, well – well anyway, I wouldn't have dared done anything because auntie would have had poor old Ray's head off his shoulders in [unclear].

Geoff: So what did he do? Do you remember what he did?

Val: Who?

Geoff: Your husband, Ray?

Val: Ray? He worked at Levertons, he was accounts manager and credit control for 32 years.

Geoff: Oh, fantastic.

Val: So he worked there, that was him there, years back. Not when he was younger, but...

Geoff: What did you – did you do anything or did you look after the home?

Val: Well, I worked at home...

Geoff: Sorry, yes, I said that wrong, didn't I?

Val: Everybody always thinks if you're just a housewife...

Shirley: If you're a housewife, you do nothing.

Val: ...you're nothing.

Shirley: Exactly.

Val: But a housewife is one of the most important jobs of anybody.

Shirley: If you're bringing up kids and looking after a house, very, very important.

Val: Because I mean, you're not only just a housekeeper, you have to be cook – head cook and bottle washer, babysitter, everything that goes – a bit of a doctor, a bit of a nurse and one thing and another.

Shirley: You have the greatest responsibility because you are looking after the next generation.

Val: Of course you are. That's what I told my granddaughter a bit ago, we were in Marks and Spencer's – last year, at Milton Keynes this is – and she was taking the mickey out of me. I said, look young lady, I said, it's alright you sat that side of that table, I said, but do you realise, I said, taking the mickey out of your grandmother, you're looking at your next -your generation? So, she said, why? Well I said, I am your grandmother and you just think, I said, in a little while, you'll be like me. I said, I'm your next generation.

[Over speaking]

Shirley: ...responsibility.

Val: It is. Nobody gives a housewife, really, credit for what she actually does. But no, I did used to – part time with work. I used to do anything and everything, but I was at home. I was a home – I did home working. So I would make sure I was at home for children coming home from school. Because I once went after a job at [Hansons] in town. They used to be opposite Mr Nicholson, dress shop and drapers, they were. Mr Hanson, the old chappy, he interviewed me and that, he said well what happens if – with your children, if say they were ill, would you stay at home to look after them or would you still come to work, and school holidays? Oh no, I said, if my children were ill and needed me, oh no, you'll have to manage at the shop, I shall stop at home and look after my children. I said, my children come before your job. So obviously I never got the job but...

[Over speaking]

Shirley: ...you had the right attitude.

Val: It's like, as I say, you say your father died when you were young, my husband's mother, she died when he was 15 – in fact, he found her dead in bed with her – because she got cancer – but my dad, he went back to the steel works in Sheffield because all my family – I'm the only one born out of Yorkshire for donkey's years, generations, I'm the only one born out of Yorkshire.

Shirley: Well I thought you were Yorkshire because when you mentioned Ilkley earlier on, your son...

Val: No, this friend of ours came from there. No, my family all come from Sheffield and Rotherham, they were all in the steel works. Of course, he didn't like – he came out of the forces, you see, because he was in India eight years, came home and mum and him got married – because she was engaged to him before he went out there, you see. Then he couldn't stick with life round here, so he went back to Sheffield and left us and left my mother absolutely destitute. So you say about wages, we – auntie used to have thrupence in the old money left, my mother used to walk – because she couldn't ride a bike – and she used to walk to a farm, from Willesby Road, just past Weston – which is four miles away, so she'd go about five or six – do a day's work ploughing the land, et cetera for this farmer, and then she would walk home six days a week and she got a guinea.

Geoff: See that's what I think is interesting. Just recording this, we can then keep it for other people, just to learn how different it is today to how it was.

Val: Oh yeah.

Geoff: I think next generations just don't understand that.

Shirley: I don't think our children understand my childhood.

Val: No, and as I say, when my dad left my mum, auntie and uncle Jack were the other side of the road, so I stayed there and uncle Jack said well -because those days, they used to call it parish relief, didn't they?

Shirley: That's right, yes.

Val: So anyway, they said about it and he said, go up and see what they can do. She didn't want them to give her any money, she wanted them to help her out while she got a job and she said she would pay them back so much per week until she'd paid back what they'd loaned her. When she came back, Uncle Jack said, how'd you get on [Wend], to her, she said, oh look. We got two tickets for the workhouse. That's the only help any government official ever gave us, two tickets for the workhouse.

So Uncle Jack said, well I'll show you what to do with them, and he threw them up [unclear]. He said, now go home, pack your [togs] and bring them over here, he said, then go to your rent man – because she rented a cottage – he said, you tell the rent man and whatnot, you're giving that cottage up, we've got a back bedroom, you come to us and live with us and while I've got a crust of bread and a pot of tea, you're welcome to half of it. He said, now go on, you're not going in there. If it hadn't have been for them, we would have...

Geoff: You would have been, yes, in the workhouse.

Val: Yeah, and this is what I say about the young girls today...

Shirley: No idea, yes.

Val: I mean, the money they get, and what they get it for. It's the same as these here – I'm not saying nothing against the foreigners, don't get me wrong. I mean, you can't help who you're born – what family you're born into, you can't help that...

Shirley: They have no control over that.

Val: Because I mean, we've got some Indian people at our doctors and they're lovely, they're ever so good and every so kind, especially my doctor, she's beautiful. But, no, I don't say anything if they come here and will work...

Shirley: And integrate into our way of life.

Val: Yeah, and whatnot, it's the riff raff I don't agree with. No, it's the riff raff I don't agree with and how the Government kowtow to all and sundry. As I've always said, we should never have gone in the Common Market. They're over there and we're an island, we've always been an island people, always, and we should have stayed an island. They shouldn't have made the Channel Tunnel and the others should have stayed there and us stay here, and that. I'm dead against it, because I always did say, Blair should have been a man and stood up and stood his ground and had a pile of canoes at Dover and a pile of oars and when they got here, get them a boat, get them the paddle and say, sling your hook, we're not having you and that's it.

Shirley: I won't go through the tunnel, there's no way you'll get me through the tunnel.

Val: Oh it's alright, I've been through it several times, oh yeah. It's a bit muggy because there's no – I know it's supposed to be air conditioned, but there isn't because of the fumes from the engines and all of that. But no, I mean, it's okay. In fact, you don't know you're under there. You're under before you know, do you know what I mean? You've got your windows – like your railway carriage, you've got your windows and you can see the sides, and suddenly all you see is grey. Beaches the first time we went, I said to Ray, oh we're in the tunnel. He said, oh didn't you notice? I said, no, not until I've looked at the window. I didn't know we were underneath, you know?

Shirley: No, in London, the Blackwall Tunnel, or the tunnels there, I just hold my breath – and the Dartford Tunnel because of course that was...

[Over speaking]

Shirley: ...to the other end.

Val: Yeah, well then yes. I mean they're roadways, aren't they, really. We've been in a...

Shirley: The thought of all that water above my head...

Val: In Switzerland and all of that, they've got traffic lights and things in there, with junctions and what have you. As I say, it doesn't bother me, to go in them. I've forgotten what I was going to say to you, about Spalding something but...

Geoff: So how's Spalding changed for you? If you think back to your childhood and the things that you miss in Spalding that you had, as it's changed through time?

Val: Well, shops, decent shops and – I mean, at one time – as I say, I never noticed it when I was younger, but my auntie was a large lady who brought me up and she could always get – a large person could always get clothes in Spalding. But not this day and age. The younger ones, when you walk in the shop, you haven't got – in some shops, they're okay, but they look at you, they eye you up and down and the courtesy isn't always there. Some shops, yes, some shops are very much so and some I wouldn't give them the time of day. There's that many food places, aren't there?

Shirley: Yes, far too many.

Val: Oh dear oh dear, there is.

Shirley: Along Winsover Street, every other shop...

Val: My father-in-law was a cobbler. Now his shop is a...

Shirley: Takeaway.

Val: No, it's [Tree House] – you know Tree House, little cafe opposite the CoOp.

Shirley: Oh yes?

Val: Near the traffic lights, that used to be – it used to be – oh dear, come on **Val**, put your brain back together. It used to be a chippy there and then was Ray's dad's shop, which he rented off the people that owned the chip shop. Well then they retired to Colchester and Mr and Mrs [Fairbanks] bought it. But then – of course then, after a time, he gave the shop up, he retired and

finished and moved, and then – so therefore, then they made his shop into a cafe – fish shop cafe. It was a chip shop for years like that, and then eventually, no, I think, where the chippy was it's a foreign shop, I think, and then three houses where Ray's dad's shop actually was. Because there used to be a passageway there and then Bennetts Butchers and then there used to be Gray's, the electrical – plumber, electrical people. Then there used to be Mr Harrison, the chemist – yeah, Harrison was the chemist, I don't – oh, and then there used to be another corn merchants, I don't know whether they weren't Garwell's or not, I'm not sure. Then [unclear] Lane with the foundry at the bottom of it and then the other side used to be Boyd's piano shop and then piano shop – then it used to be [Bedford's] I think. Then Parkinson's the butchers and - where [ALDI's] is now. Then there used to be [Cole's], they had a little dress shop, little outfitters shop. There used to be – oh dear, what was it called? Was it Northern? No, I think Northern was further up. I forgot what that – it used to be a pub anyway, because [Hardy's] used to keep it. You know Hardy [and] Clifton? The bakers used to be in...

Shirley: No, before our time.

Val: Well they – she kept it, Mrs Hardy, and then, as I say, used to be Cole's shop and he had a bookies round the corner in St Thomas Road, but his wife had the clothier shop. Then there used to come – because there was Hardy's and Clifton's, there was relation. But one had the shop in the Crescent and one had the shop on the corner of Winsover Road and St Thomas Road, on the corner there.

Shirley: Yes, where [unclear] is.

Val: Then the other side of the road used to be a grocery shop and that, there. There used to be a lot of little shops – lots of little shops.

Shirley: Yes, as Alex was saying, it was fairly well represented, Spalding, for shopping you could get just about...

Val: You could get anything. You could get anything...

Shirley: Yes, you could get anything you ever needed in Spalding itself, you didn't have to go out.

Val: ...right through Pinchbeck.

Shirley: Whereas nowadays...

Val: Nowadays you have to go out. You see, along Pinchbeck – not Pinchbeck Road – New Road there, from Pinchbeck Road corner, there was [Floyd's] at the corner which was a newsagents and a sweetie shop, then there was Hanson's, then there was Maples the solicitors, then there was a little shop that was called Pam's – that lady that you're going to see. Then there was Pam's, then there was the jewellers, then there was the little shop – [unclear] still sell models – model aeroplanes.

Shirley: Yes there is along there.

Val: I'm trying to think who there was. I was friendly with the daughter.

Geoff: Was there a garage there?

Val: Yeah, then there was a garage, then there was a hairdressers, then there was a top quality cake shop, Turner's. Then there was [Sherrington's], the bicycle man's, then there was [Nipe's] fish shop, which the grandmother to that girl, again. Her grandmother was called Nipe, but her mother worked in the shop as well as Pam. Because I went to school with her. Then Mrs Jenkinson – I don't know whether her husband got killed in the war or what. But I never knew Pam's dad, she never ever spoke of him, you know, you never heard. I don't know whether he got killed in the war or what happened. But she hadn't got her dad like most of us. Then, when this other little shop became empty, her mum bought it for Pam and she sold baby clothes, it was a little baby shop. Beautiful little shop, used to get some lovely little things in there. No, we've had a lot of nice shops and then from the chip shop, there used to be an old cart track down to what was the back way of Bailey [Sewett] now. The [unclear] field used to be down there. It was horrible down there, you used to walk through – like a crew yard going down there. They had barns and all that down there, horses and one thing and another. Where Nipe's fish shop was there, there used to be a little – now what was it? Was she a – I can't think, I think it was a – well Harrison's fruit shop used to be there, now it's a barbers. I'm trying to think who was there before it was Harrison's. Then there was an old lady sold sweets, but I would never buy anything from there. Cats used to sit in the boxes of sweets, because they were open, you see, in those days.

[Over speaking]

Val: No sort of hygiene and that. I mean, if you wanted any sweets or anything and you wanted to [unclear] she would say ... and then bung you a quarter of sweets ... That used to be a right grubby little shop, people used to...

[Over speaking]

Val: People used to go in.

Geoff: We used to live in Sidcup and we were both – we lived within about...

Shirley: Just round the corner from each other.

Geoff: There was an old lady whose shop...

Shirley: Mrs [Woolaway].

Geoff: Mr...

Shirley: Mrs Woolaway – well, there was a Mr Woolaway, but he died.

Geoff: Yeah, and this shop was...

Shirley: Oh, terrible. It's like going into the Black Hole of Calcutta. It was so dark and dismally lit. There was mouldy bread on the – oh, it was a terrible, terrible shop.

Val: There was nothing like hygiene. But after saying all of that, how many of that generation ever died from catching anything? How many colds and coughs did you get in the winter time?

Shirley: You never heard of an ear infection. All the kids seem to have them nowadays.

Val: No, and I'll tell you another thing, we never used to get what they get these days – excuse me love – about – I had to laugh at my daughter-in-law one day because she's got two girls and a boy. One of them, she got to about 12 or so, poor thing, and she said, oh, she said, she's quite hormonal at the moment, don't talk to her nanny. So I said, what do you mean hormonal?

Shirley: Yeah, that's a word we never used.

Val: So she said, well, you know, she said, hormones and that. I said, well, no, I don't.

Shirley: We didn't get hormonal, did we?

Val: Didn't even know – well I didn't know...

[Over speaking]

Val: I was [unclear] then and I still didn't know. I still don't really know what they mean about it, but I don't show my ignorance that much these days, in case they take the mickey.

[Over speaking]

Val: We wasn't – I said, if it was about in our day, I said, we wasn't allowed them. I said, I would never have dared say to my auntie, I was fed up. Because, she said, right young lady, come on, in the kitchen. There's half a stone of bread here, she said, here, roll your sleeves up, get that kneaded up. Because she always made her own bread, you see, never bought bread at all.

Shirley: But there was never time to be bored or fed up because there was always something...

Val: Something to do, yeah. My auntie would make me do it.

Geoff: What did you – what sort of food would you have had at home?

Val: Food?

Geoff: Was it sort of – what did you have for breakfast in the morning? What was it...

Val: Boiled egg or a bit of toast and marmalade and whatever was going.

Shirley: Yeah, same as us.

Val: Because it was war time, you see, as well.

Geoff: Yeah, well that's right. Then lunch time, did you have two meals or did you have one meal...

Val: No, I used to come home from work and possibly have a sandwich or a cup of soup or something. Because we had an old fashioned range auntie had in our house and the cauldron on the hook at the back. I don't think that – all during war time – I don't think, all during war time, or ever, that cauldron was ever empty. I think she used to stock it up and because we kept chickens down the garden, which was allowed, and then, as I say, we kept chickens down the garden and if it wanted something in, well a chicken would be killed and plucked and one thing and another and in the pot it would go. A load of vegetables and...

Shirley: And there was always a kettle on the range for a cup of tea.

Val: Oh yeah. There was always a rice pudding in the...

[Over speaking]

Shirley: We used to squabble over the skin on the top. It was your turn last time, it's my turn this time.

Val: I know. There'd be the [punshon] on the bottom with the bread rising. Once it got to the top and the tea cloth started to rise then it would be -everything would be pushed back on the table and the big bread board would come out and there'd be flour fluffing all over and bread tins out. As I say, we had all things like that and [Rich] used to make a walloping big steam pudding. Just plain, plain steamed pudding. If you wanted -with your dinner, she'd take all this veggie and chicken and meat and whatever we'd got out of the pot and she'd cook this big steam pudding and put a big thick slide on your plate and then this stew affair and things. What was left afterwards, if you hadn't used all your jam ration up or whatever, or you got any fruit or, as I say, raspberry vinegar or something, you would put that on and you'd have another chunk of steam pudding with whatever was going on it.

Shirley: Exactly, it would go with savoury and sweet.

Val: That's why she never put – sometimes she'd make a steam treacle pudding and that, but not very often.

[Over speaking]

Val: ...nearly always plain. Then you used to have...

Shirley: Bacon roly poly...

[Over speaking]

Val: ...all smudgy and soggy and that on the outside.

Shirley: Nowadays the wrong sort of food but we're still here.

Val: Yeah, but that's the point. They say all that is wrong for you and one thing and another, but look who is left and when you look, how many of them are dying at younger are.

Shirley: Exactly, and how many centenarians. I mean, to reach 100 was – well, you hardly ever heard of anybody reaching 100. Now there are so many people who actually get to 100, it's incredible. They've all be brought up, obviously, on bread and dripping, bacon roly poly...

[Over speaking]

Val: ...jelly at the bottom of the dripping jar, that thick brown jelly. It used to be as salty as hell, didn't it?

Shirley: You're not allowed to eat salt now. Yet we sort of lived on things like that.

Val: I know. The same as in the war time, I used to call her auntie – her name's gone now – lady at Manchester, her husband and her sister – well, her sister and her used to come down here because both their husbands were in the paras, you see. Auntie used to rent the back bedroom – well, middle bedroom out to them if they wanted it. Peggy, that was her name, Peggy [Boyle]. They used to come down to be with their husbands, to see them and what have you. Never used to stop at our house, the men used to be at the barracks and the two ladies – auntie wouldn't have that. No, she said, I don't mind having you but – I don't mind your husband's visiting you but they don't stay overnight because I've not got space for anything. So she wouldn't have that at all, no, she was too strict. But anyway, Peggy used to do a bit of black market, I think, in Manchester. She used to bring extra food coupons, what you could barter with. I do remember, at the top of Willesby Road was somebody – there were some cottages up on River Bank, but then they were proper gypsies, they were, real gypos and that, there was – oh no, you shouldn't say that, that's wrong nowadays.

Shirley: That's how we were brought up, yes, we called them that.

Val: But you know, they were ever such nice people. This lady used to come down to auntie and ask auntie because, as I say, she was always good with anybody if she got a bit of anything she'd make some bits for the kids and what have you. Because she got about four or five kiddies and that, she used to come to auntie and say, have you got any spare clothes or whatever? But you know, she used to make the most beautiful soap. Beautiful soap and it used to be dark brown stuff, looked horrible, and it was always in a big long slab like this, about that square, and you cut a slice off when you wanted it. But lather, it lathered beautifully. So how she used to make it, we never knew, but...

Shirley: But make it she did.

Val: They [unclear] tradition, you see, don't they, these...

Shirley: And hand it down, yeah.

Val: She used to bring auntie soap, because you see soap was rationed in the war, you couldn't get it. So we always got plenty of soap. When she wanted the washing, she had an old [suet] grater and I can remember sitting on a Sunday night, scraping away like this to get soap flakes for the washing the next day, as a kid. So of course, she used to bring auntie things like that and

he got a little van as well as his horse and cart. I'm sure his pile of manure was as high as what the fence was that was round his yard. He had a huge pile in the -I never knew whatever happened to it...

[Over speaking]

Shirley: It walked away on its own.

Val: So he used to say, if I get you so and so, has Peg brought any petrol coupons? So she's say, oh yeah, I've got a few petrol coupons. I mean we hadn't even got a bike, never mind about a car. So you used to – whatever you'd got, you swapped with one another. You got a bit of something here...

Shirley: Which was very sensible.

Val: ...to swap with what you've got. It did, it was a right barter in the war time and I know – what was his name? Walt Crust was the butcher, he was near Chain Bridge, but on Albion Street, this side. Where the chippy and the forge was, he was dead opposite them, this side of the river. Walt Crust used to say to auntie sometimes, have you got a chicken to spare? I've got a – these are the posh customers and that, sometimes, they didn't want the meat, they wanted a chicken for – I'm having so and so come to lunch and whatnot. He knew auntie had always got chickens in the garden and so – she used to say, yeah, but what are you going to give me for it? Oh, you can have a bit extra – how about a bit of extra beef this week or a bit of extra pork or something? That'll do me, she said. Because we used to have lodgers, you see, because as I say, with her not -she couldn't go out to work. So one room was always given up to a lodger...

Shirley: Lots of people did.

Val: ...or a couple of them and that. People did you to have them in that day and age. So of course, as I say, she used to get a bit of extra meat and sausage and things like that and he used to get a chicken. No money passed hands, just you...

Shirley: Just meat and...

[Over speaking]

Val: You just swapped it, and that, with the butcher and [laughs]. It was like me, I mean, I don't drink tea at all – I could have offered you a cup of tea, love.

Geoff: No, no.

Shirley: No.

Val: It's because I don't drink it. I don't drink, you see much. I only drink water or lemonade or something. So anyway, I don't drink tea and of course you didn't have coffee when you were a child.

Shirley: No, that's right, or tea.

Val: But I used to love Vitacup. Now Mr Maltson, he used to have a little shop further up from where Pam's grandma's chip shop was, it went further along, Mr Maltson. Now old Dr Dobbs and Monroe, the doctors in town where we used to, once a month – auntie wasn't allowed it because of her heart, because it gathered fat around the heart, but – because she had a heart condition – but because they – he knew that I only drunk Vitacup, he used to give a [sheet] to auntie, to go to Mr Maltson, to get one tin of Vitacup per month. It wasn't free, auntie had to pay for it, like when you go to the groceries, but it was on dockets or – what you get from the doctors, the doctor's note.

Shirley: A prescription.

Val: Right, yeah. He used to supply auntie with that every month purely because he knew that I only drunk that and I didn't have anything else, you see, apart from water. That's how I used to get my hot drink in the war time, through the doctor.

Shirley: Yeah, because I mean you used to get orange juice through the clinic, didn't you?

Val: Our babies...

[Over speaking]

Val: You used to get your tinned Ministry of Food milk as well. You used to get that as well.

Shirley: I always remember that there was orange juice at the clinic.

Val: Yeah, and I tell you another thing auntie had got, right up in the cupboard and we were threatened with our lives not to touch this little – only a little bottle like that, but it was poison. It was right up – because we had those cupboards at the side of your range, you used to have these long cupboards, didn't you.

Shirley: No, we had [fender boxes].

Val: Well we had, but in the corner where the fire [pitched] to the end of the wall, there was a big cupboard. On the top shelf, right at the very back, was this little tiny bottle of poison like this. Auntie said, she was never going to go under Hitler. She said I am not having him rule us and if we'd have lost the war and whatnot, she always threatened she would use that. Whatever happened to it, I do not know.

Shirley: Or what sort of poison it was.

Val: No, I don't know because I was only a child, but I know we were threatened with it, not to touch that bottle. I never did, I only ever saw it once and it was a black bottle, like a thrupenny piece shaped thing, with a cork in the top and it was right at the very back of this cupboard, hidden away. I once asked what it was for, she said, well we are not going under Hitler if they win the war. But nowadays, I look about and I think to myself, well who the devil did win the war? What was it all about?

Shirley: I don't think it was us at the end of the day.

Val: It wasn't, because I mean that's where our ruling comes from, from Europe doesn't it. It's them that tell us what to do and whatnot. I mean, we've lost all these fishing rights...

Shirley: All the money that was [ploughed] in...

Val: ...and whatever, we've lost rights and whatnot. I mean, they take you to these tribunals and if you dot your Ts in the wrong spot, I mean, oh, everything goes up in arms and one thing and another.

Shirley: Yes, it's a funny old world, isn't it?

Val: Well I once had – not here, down at the other house – I went to Wilkos one day, and I wanted a little – for the other house – I wanted a little table and they've got these compressed cardboard type of things and there used to be like a tripod across ways and then a top it used to sit on, with a long cloth over it and a lace in it. I wanted a green one, just in this spot in my window, down the other house when I'd decorated and whatnot. Well I went in Wilkos and I'd seen these little tables and I thought, oh I'll have a look and see if they've got a green one. Now of course, they were all slotted like this, you see, well of course I naturally pulled them forward, never thinking about the weight, and there I stood pulling them forward and suddenly they slipped and about 10 fell on my knees like this. Well I sort of crouched with all these on my knees, well I couldn't – and I yelped and one of the assistance came and she pushed back. So I phoned up next day – I couldn't hardly walk, oh my knees did hurt and that, because with having this bad arthritis you see, what I've got – I rung up the next day and spoke to whoever it was, the manager or supervisor, manageress or something. They said, we have to set our shop out with what head office says, we don't have the choice of how we set things out, it's them that says. But next time I went in, I noticed, she said, we've said this before, they should be like this, this way on. Instead of that, they were like this. Of course, it all came forward. Do you know, a couple of months after that happened, I had a young lad -he didn't look very old, only in his 20s – come knocking at the door from some solicitors to say, did I want to make a complaint and I could have claimed money for it. I said, I could what? He said, oh yes, if you like, it's happened within the last three years. He said, as long as you're not over three years for claiming, you can put a claim into them. Well, I said, I've got a letter from them to – I've still got it in there – to say they were very sorry it had happened and they hadn't realised that that's what could happen. They'd set the tables out wrong and – but in future they would do them the other way. As far as I was concerned, it was finished. But this solicitor came and, you know, wanted to sue them for money. Well I couldn't – I think he thought I was stupid, because I didn't.

Shirley: It is the way of life, now.

Val: It is the way of life. It's wrong.

Shirley: It is wrong, yes.

Val: This is what I say about these here young girls and people, they get money left and right for different things.

Geoff: Yeah, it's very different.

Val: You have to work hard for your money and pay your taxes and all the rest of it.

Shirley: Right, and if you were to try to get benefits, they'd laugh in your face, wouldn't they, and say, oh you can't have any. You've paid in for them, but...

Geoff: Do you know what? We've talked for an hour...

END OF TRANSCRIPT