

**1. FRANKIE FISHER & CLIVE RODGERS INTERVIEW WITH JACK CAMPBELL (AGED 94) on 12th
December 2012.**

Transcribed by Vanda Bennett

FF	I know you've spoken to Ken before, haven't you?
JC	Yes, Ken before...
FF	That's right. Well, this is like Part 2 [laughs]
FF	You're keeping well are you Jack?
JC	Very well, yes.
FF	Considering it's winter! You're nice and warm?
JC	It is warm in here.
FF	Lovely. You don't feel cold. Well, I remember your Mum when she was very elderly.
JC	Oh yes.
FF	Jack's Mum lived just down the road from me (to CR). Jack and Margaret lived just opposite, and his Mum lived on the other side.
CR	On the other side, yes.
FF	On my side, yes. I was looking at what you told Ken and I was interested that you spent some of your early years living with your grandparents.
JC	I used to live with me grandmother and that, but me father he suffered with asthma, so in the years to come I used to go down to me Gran's because I couldn't stand, and then I used to stop at Gran's and she used to do a lot of washing every week. I used to take the washing, deliver the washing, every week round the village.
FF	That was your job was it?
JC	Yes. And then we used to fetch some milk from the farm and deliver the milk to the people's houses.
FF	Which farm was that Jack?
JC	From the farm.
FF	Good, and when you lived with your grandmother, was it just your grandmother and your granddad or were there any aunts or anybody else like that?
JC	No, I just lived with me grandmother.
FF	Did you have any brothers and sisters?
JC	No.
FF	No, I thought you were an only one. Did you have cousins in the village or around?

JC	None no. After that I used to be a bell ringer.
FF	Yes. Jim Harding was it?
JC	Jim Harding.
FF	Yes. And did you have a bell ringers' supper then?
JC	We had a supper for all the ringers at The Vicarage.
FF	Oh lovely.
JC	And then we used to go and ring at midnight.
FF	What did you have for the supper? What did they give you to eat?
JC	Turkey.
FF	Oh lovely [laughs].
CR	Wow!
FF	How many ringers would be there?
JC	Well you see there was Frank and John Price, and Jim Bonham and Tom Bonham, and Ernie Endell and about five or six.
FF	Who was the captain of the tower?
JC	John Price.
FF	That's our John Price's dad?
JC	That's right.
FF	I don't remember him, but he was much older than Mrs Price wasn't he?
JC	Oh yes ... yes.
FF	When it was washday and your grandmother was doing the washing, what was it like?
JC	Well I used to be outside. She used to get up about 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning and do the washing.
FF	Hard work.
JC	Oh it was hard work.
FF	Yes. I know my mum always said that on washing day they always had bubble and squeak because it took all day to do the washing. Did she hang it outside?
JC	Oh yes. Had a line across the bed to the road and then...
FF	Did she have much of a garden?
JC	She had a little bit of a garden you see ... up to the house. And when that's all dried she used to iron it all, pack it all and I used to deliver it all round the village
FF	And your grandfather was the roadman was he?
JC	He was a roadman, yes.
FF	Working for the Fremantles?
JC	He used to be on the roadman.

FF	Right. I've got a picture here Jack of a roadman. I don't know whether you've seen it before ... we wondered if it could be your grandfather, or whether it's somebody else?
JC	No I've never seen that before.
FF	Oh fine. Thank you. What was your pattern of meals during the day? Did you have breakfast before you went out to school?
JC	Yes.
FF	What did you have?
JC	Boiled egg or a bit of toast.
FF	Did you have chickens?
JC	We had chickens down the allotment. Used to go and feed the chickens first thing in the morning.
FF	Was that your job too? [laughs] They worked you hard!
JC	[laughs]
FF	And so after breakfast then you'd go to school?
JC	Yes.
FF	Who did you go to school with? Who were your friends?
JC	Well there was George Ovens from the bakery.
FF	From the bakery yes? You didn't have far to go ... just down the road.
JC	No.
FF	Did you go and play before school, or did you go right for when you had to go in.
JC	No, we used to go and play before school.
FF	What sort of things did you play?
JC	Oh anything!
FF	Chase?
JC	[laughs]
FF	Did you like school?
JC	I used to like it.
FF	What were your favourite bits?
JC	I used to like it in the morning, we used to be playing in the yard and we used to have an old maypole years ago. Used to have that before...
FF	And your teacher was Miss?
JC	That was Miss Clues.
FF	Miss Clues that was then? And was she kind.
JC	She were a hard woman
FF	Was she? [laughs] You had to behave yourselves.

JC	We did that. She used to have the cane out and one of the boys took the cane away and broke it.
FF	Oh! Did he get into trouble? [laughter] I bet you lot all laughed. That was fun. What sort of things did you get the cane for?
JC	Oh anything.
FF	Reading?
JC	Yeah. If you'd been out in the playground and bring in a lot of mud.
FF	I bet you couldn't help that really ... not in the winter. Did your teacher have any help or was it just her?
JC	No, it used to be Miss Clues and then one time of day it was Tom Viccars's wife.
FF	Oh yes, Gwen.
JC	She was a teacher.
FF	She taught your grandchildren and my kids as well, didn't she, Gwen did? She was quite strict.
JC	She was.
FF	I guess you have to be. And what were the arrangements for lunch? Did you get a meal at school?
JC	No, we used to go home for lunch.
FF	So then you went back after lunch?
JC	Yes we used to get back after lunch and then out in the playground for a little while, and then school.
FF	Did you used to have assemblies with the Vicar in school.
JC	Sometimes he used to come down.
FF	Everybody seems to have quite liked him. Was he quite nice?
JC	Oh yeah. Forrest.
FF	That's right, Canon Forrest. Did you see him out and about in the village a lot as well?
JC	He used to drive an old car.
FF	I know he had two sisters, didn't he? Because I remember Miss Featherstone, that was his niece.
JC	That's right, Miss Featherstone.
FF	I remember Miss Featherstone. She lived to a good age.
JC	She was that.
FF	What did you like best at school? What subjects did you like best? You won the Bishop's Prize one year, didn't you?
JC	What was?
FF	For scripture.

JC	Oh yes.
FF	Did you have to learn it, or did you just have to know what it was about?
JC	You had to know....
FF	...what it was all about?
JC	Yes.
FF	Did you like to read?
JC	I had to ring. Had to ring on the bells.
FF	Oh yes, and that was Jim taught you that was it?
JC	Yes.
FF	He was good wasn't he? People liked him
JC	Yes.
FF	When you were at school, did you play football?
JC	We played football and cricket as well.
FF	I know you were in the cricket team because I remember the picture of you with Bill Gurnett.
JC	Oh yeah?
FF	You were in the cricket team. Which villages did you play in when you were in the cricket team?
JC	Used to play in Swanbourne ... used to be Nearnton End and Swanbourne. Use to play in the cricket team.
FF	Did you play on the rec ... or down where the prep school is?
JC	Down there yes.
FF	Where they play now, yes. That's quite interesting that is because they had to let him have that... Did you pay visits anywhere? Did you leave the village to visit people at all? Most of your family was in the village, wasn't it?
JC	Yes, my brother were, he were killed in the war, you see.
FF	Right. What was his name?
JC	Bill.
FF	That must have been awful.
JC	He were in what they call the Chindits, in Burma.
FF	Oh dear. Sad.
JC	That were terrible ... terrible.
FF	And he died in action?
CR	What year was that Jack? About 1944?
JC	In the Chindits ... he had some sort of a sickness and that. It was hot.

FF	And they got fevers, didn't they?
CR	Malaria.
FF	What a sad thing. How dreadful. What do you remember about the shops in the village. Where did your gran and your mum do their shopping?
JC	Oh, Mr Walker used to have the shop.
FF	And could you buy everything there?
JC	Yes ... yes.
FF	And then there was the bakery?
JC	There was the bakery, and then there was a butchers.
FF	Would you have been, at Nearnton End was it?
JC	Yes. There was a cobbler's shop as well.
FF	Yes, Mr Harding. He made boots and shoes?
JC	He'd mend them ... he'd mend boots, yes.
FF	Then when you left school, you went on to work on the farm?
JC	Yes.
FF	Whose farm was that?
JC	When I left school I went up to Cowell's at Dodley Hill. That's where I started farming.
FF	Yes.
JC	And I come back and lived with Kibble and farmed there ... and then I went from there to John Holdom's at Above Mead.
FF	Yes. What made you move farms?
JC	Nothing else
FF	Why did you change? You went where the work was, did you?
JC	Yes.
FF	What kind of jobs did you have to do?
JC	Well, any job. Ten shillings a week.
FF	Yes. Can you take me through the farming year? What kind of jobs you did at different times of the year?
JC	Oh yeah. And then after, when I was about 14 or 15, I went on the railway.
FF	Oh right.
JC	Worked on the railway at Bedford. I used to bike to Bedford and start off there.
FF	That was a long way to bike.
JC	A long way to go, yes.
FF	Did you not have lodgings in Bedford? Did you come home every night?

JC	I had lodgings at Bedford. It were a level crossing. Many years ago.
FF	How long did you work for the railway?
JC	Five or six years, and then when I come back I helped build Little Horwood House.
FF	Oh right, and who were you working for then?
JC	Nobody.
FF	Just yourself?
JC	Yes. I went into the work place and that's where they sent me.
FF	The employment exchange ... that's where they sent you?
JC	Yes.
FF	Did you enjoy doing that?
JC	Oh yes.
FF	Was it better than farming?
JC	Yeah.
FF	Why?
JC	You were working all along chaps ... it seems like I was a part of it all. I liked farming, I used to get up at six o'clock and milk the cows.
FF	How many cows?
JC	Oh about 13 or 14 ... then we had a machine then after that.
FF	Do you remember when the machines came then?
JC	Yes.
FF	You started milking by hand and then the machines came? Was that a relief?
JC	That was! [laughs]
FF	What else did they keep on the farm? Did they do arable as well?
JC	Oh everything, everything.
FF	It was proper mixed farming.
JC	Yeah, yeah.
FF	Who worked on the farm with you?
JC	Well there used to be Frank Alderman.
FF	Gladys's Frank?
JC	That's right.
FF	Anyone else?
JC	Will Alderman, Bill Gurnett...
FF	Then he went into gardening didn't he, Bill Gurnett, later?
JC	I think so, yes.

FF	I think I remember him saying that he was a gardener. He was in the cricket team!
JC	Yes.
FF	Were you a bowler or a batsman?
JC	A bit of both.
FF	An all rounder! Jolly good. Bill used to bowl didn't he?
JC	Yes.
FF	What other villages did you play? Where did you go to play? Did you go to Stewkley and Drayton?
JC	Oh yes, and Buckingham ... Whitchurch.
FF	Did you have a coach to get there?
JC	Waddesdon.
FF	Oh, even to Waddesdon?
JC	Yes.
FF	How did you get there?
JC	Just had a sort of a little small bus.
FF	Did you have the famous cricket teas? Did the ladies go and make tea?
JC	Oh aye, yes.
FF	I was sad ... when we came to village the cricket team was just about finishing. Your Paul played cricket didn't he?
JC	Yes.
FF	What kind of things ... when you were a young man ... what kind of things did you do for fun, for entertainment?
JC	I could do any farm that was in the job you see.
FF	Yes, but what did you do for fun, for entertainment. Did you go to the cinema?
JC	No. Sometimes there'd be a whist drive on.
FF	Oh, exciting! [laughs]
JC	[laughs]
FF	What was it like in Swanbourne in the war?
JC	There were nothing at all.
FF	Nothing happened. But you had the land girls, because that's how you met Margaret!
JC	Oh yes.
FF	But most of your friends would have been working on the land and so didn't have to join up.
JC	That's right.
FF	But you lost your brother. How did you come to meet the land girls? Were there dances?

JC	Well they sent them out to the farm.
FF	Oh right, so you worked with them?
JC	Yes.
FF	Did you work with Margaret then?
JC	Yes, she used to deliver the milk round in Swanbourne, by pony.
FF	She came from Yorkshire didn't she?
JC	Yes.
FF	And there was Joyce Gurnett as well. She came down, didn't she? And Grace?
JC	Yes.
FF	Quite a gang.
JC	There was.
FF	Were there any prisoners of war ... Italians ... working in the village?
JC	No.
FF	Because I know that Bob Tofield had contact with one of the Italian prisoners of war, but I don't know whether ... because I used to come to Bob's and I wish I'd asked more, but you don't do you... so you and Margaret got married?
JC	Yep.
FF	And where did you live then?
JC	Then we lived at Buckingham, when we were first married.
FF	Yes.
JC	Then we moved back to Swanbourne, and then we moved up the house next to Alcock.
FF	Yes, that's from where I remember you.
JC	Yes.
FF	Did Margaret work when the children were little?
JC	She never worked afore we had the children.
CR	How many children were there?
JC	Two.
FF	Did you have an allotment at that time?
JC	I did ... up at Capus, Capus Piece, next to where Ron Bean used to have to go.
FF	Right, right. And what did you grow?
JC	Anything ... vegetables. Well they've made it all a car park now.
FF	I know. You had a lovely garden.
JC	I had a lovely garden.
FF	I remember coming over and watching the birds with you, because you had woodpeckers before we did ... we got them in the end, but they had woodpeckers on their table before

	I did, and I was very impressed. And Margaret always used to like cats, didn't she.
JC	That's right.
FF	Yes, we used to talk a lot about cats.
JC	We had a cat come, it was a stray cat then ... and it still takes on at the pub.
FF	What a black one? I see it! It comes to my house and my cat sees it off.
CR	Even now?
FF	Yes. Yes. It's a lovely cat.
JC	A lovely cat.
FF	I think it sometimes sleeps in our garage.
JC	Probably does.
FF	I think they feed it at the pub, but it doesn't sleep there. I think it comes in and gets under our garage door.
JC	Lovely cat.
FF	Did you ever have dogs, Jack?
JC	Yes.
FF	I remember you having a black dog.
JC	I had a black dog, a Labrador. She used to go down to the butchers shop. She come back home one day with a pair of horns with a bit of meat on, up the walk and come into the garden.
FF	Cheeky thing! Do you remember the Swanbourne feasts, when they used to hold the Swanbourne feast every year? Or had that stopped happening?
JC	That must have stopped.
FF	Is there anything else you can think to tell us, that you can remember?
JC	No nothing, not in the years?
FF	No, it was ordinary daily living. And you didn't have much spare time...
JC	No.
FF	Not with the working and the allotment. Did you have chickens in Mursley Road when you lived across the road?
JC	No.
FF	No I didn't think you did.
JC	My mother had some chickens, up Mursley Road.
FF	Yes.
JC	She had a pig as well.
FF	She had a pig as well, did she?
JC	Yes.
FF	What was the job your mum used to do for the Fremantle's?

JC	For the Fremantle's she were a cook.
FF	Was she a good cook?
JC	Yes.
FF	So you always had good food?
JC	Yes.
FF	How old were you went you went back to live with your mum and dad?
JC	Oh about 16 or 17.
FF	And was your dad better from the asthma then or was it a problem all his life?
JC	Yes.
FF	It was just when you were young?
JC	Yes.
FF	It must have been frightening.
JC	Oh it were terrible.
FF	An asthma attack is frightening. And that's why you went to live with your grandmother?
JC	Yes.
FF	Did they have the doctor out?
JC	Well you see she used to open the windows, because he was gasping for breath. Oh terrible.
CR	What are the biggest changes in the village that you have seen, in Swanbourne?
FF	How has the village changed over your lifetime?
JC	Well it ain't changed a lot.
CR	It hasn't changed much?
JC	No.
FF	Traffic?
JC	Well there is that yeah.
FF	But it's still a lovely village.
JC	Yes.
FF	Did you find it a good place to live?
JC	A very good place.
FF	Lots of friendly people.
JC	Yes. I shouldn't know anybody now.
FF	Oh you know me!
JC	Oh aye, yeah!
FF	And there's still some, there's Trudy. You know Trudy ... Jeanne Dykes' daughter. She's in the same house that her mother was. She's where Jean lived ... they moved back from

	Smithfield End, so she's there. You'd know a few people, but I reckon I nearly count as a villager now.
JC	Yeah. [laughs]
FF	I think it's 37 years this year. Jack's got two grandchildren ... Mark who's the same age as my daughter ... they were at school together ... and Guy. Now Guy's in London isn't he?
JC	Yes.
FF	Where's Mark?
JC	Mark ... he lives at Yarmouth.
FF	I knew it was somewhere over that way.
CR	Has he got any children?
FF	Yes Mark's got children.
JC	Yes.
CR	I think I've seen them in the garden.
FF	Yes, because I remember when Mark married Emma.
JC	That's right.
FF	And the little girl.
JC	Yes.
FF	I remember the wedding, because we had it at the chapel. That was...
JC	That's some of our grandchildren...
FF	Where? Here ... oh yes [looking at photo]. Lovely. Yes, she's a big girl now.
JC	Yes.
FF	Have you got any old photos Jack? Of the old days?
JC	No I haven't. Sorry.
FF	That's all right.
CR	Nothing of any age at all then, no? Not really got any photos? But that's your wife isn't it?
FF	That's Margaret. That there, look, that's how I remember Margaret. And who's with her?
JC	Oh what's her name Vera Fletcher.
FF	Oh! So it is Vera! Well I never. She's from Mursley. I know Vera because I used to go and preach to the little chapel. And her husband was Ed, that's right. She was another landgirl wasn't she?
JC	She was a Dr Barnardo's girl.
FF	Oh that's right, she was brought up with Dr Barnardo's. That's right. And there's the pair of them together there. That's you and Margaret. But there must have been big changes in the farming over the years.
JC	Oh there was lots of change. The machinery's all different.

FF	Not so much labouring now.
JC	No.
CR	We don't need as many people now.
JC	We used to have horses years ago.
FF	Yes, and did you used to have a good harvest home? Did the Cottesloes, the Fremantles, do a big harvest home?
JC	Yes.
FF	And where was that?
JC	We didn't have harvest home.
FF	Oh you didn't.
JC	No.
FF	Do you remember old Lady Cottesloe?
JC	Oh yeah.
FF	What was she like?
JC	She used to ride on a bike.
FF	Malcolm Ash used to do a very good impersonation of her. He used to do an impersonation of her opening a missionary evening because she was very into that, wasn't she? And it was her that brought the Ovenses, yes?
JC	Yes.
FF	And did she not have lots of orphans that she helped?
JC	She had lots at the time.
FF	What was he like? Did you see anything of him?
JC	Fremantle, he was a very nice man, but you didn't see much of him.
FF	No. They were very strong church people then. She did a lot. Did you remember any evacuees in the village in the war?
JC	There were some evacuees with Evans ... they were during the war.
FF	And Mabel White? I thought Mabel had evacuees.
JC	Ah, perhaps she did.
FF	You were saying about the cricket team in Nearton and the one at Swanbourne ... were they more two separate villages then, or was it all one.
JC	No, just the same.
FF	Just the same as it is now? All one village?
JC	Yes.
FF	Mostly owned by Fremantles, so that made it one didn't it?
CR	Jack, have you ever seen the Green Lady in Swanbourne? The ghost? Have you heard the legend of the ghost of Elizabeth Adams who was married to Thomas?

JC	No.
FF	The kids used to talk about it. I remember your Mark and Ellie talking about it ... just because they liked the stories.
CR	So you've never seen any ghosts in Swanbourne?
JC	No. [laughs]
FF	Did you ever go to use any of the pubs Jack?
JC	Occasionally I used to. I wasn't that old you see.
FF	There were a lot in the old days. A lot of pubs.
JC	Oh there was.
FF	There was The Boot, where Grace lived.
JC	And one down Nearnton.
FF	The White Hart, where David Blunt lives.
CR	Do you remember that being a pub then?
JC	I remember them both.
FF	When you went to the pub which one did you go to?
JC	Usually to The Boot.
CR	Where was that one?
FF	Where Grace Blake lived. Just round the corner, where the pond used to be. The Boot.
CR	Duck End.
FF	Yes. There used to be a beautiful duck, didn't there, cut in topiary. I remember that, in that house.
JC	Yes.
FF	Who did that, do you know?
JC	I don't know who did it.
FF	It was there for years wasn't it?
CR	I bet not many ladies went into the pubs in those days.
JC	No there weren't.
CR	It was all men was it?
JC	[laughs]
FF	The men used to walk over from Hoggaston because there wasn't a pub in Hoggaston was there? There still isn't.
JC	It used to be the Chapmans, lived up on that house on the main road. They used to bike to the pub and when he come home on his bike one day and George Brooks with the building, so he says "That's it Tom, fence him in".
CR	And did many people get drunk?

JC	Not a lot.
FF	No, not enough money to get drunk. Did you ever see the police in Swanbourne?
JC	No.
FF	A law abiding lot.
JC	There was no police about.
FF	No need. That's absolute brilliant Jack. Thank you very much. And if you think of anything else, tell Lesley or Paul, and then we can come again.
CR	Or, should any old photographs turn up, or anything.
FF	It's lovely to see you. I miss you, but Mursley's all right.
JC	Yes.
FF	And you've got Lesley and Paul. Lesley's very good isn't she? Wonderful girl.
JC	She is.
FF	You did very well there.
JC	Yes.
FF	Okay. We don't want to tire you out.
JC	No well, nice to talk about the old days.
FF	Well if you want us to come again, just tell Lesley, and one of us will come. It was lovely to see you.

NOTE: *Red font is audio version only; these sentences were missed on the video recording*