

Transcripts of Sonya Teale's interview with Mrs Vera Newland, 23rd October 2007.

Part 3

This is part 3 of the recording of Mrs Newland made on the 23rd of October 2007 by Sonya Teale. Words in *italics* are those of the interviewer.

Looking after the children in the in the playground so of course I did 25 years up there all together that was you know and all the children were lovely and I didn't want to leave up there I cried when I left and everybody thought I was mad to cry to leave those children but I knew a lot of their mothers and fathers so it was a really you know a heart breaking thing for me to do to leave them but there you are.

The headmaster at the school at the time was a Mr Young and he used to wear plus fours and all the boys poked fun at him of course and he also had a motorbike sidecar which he always took down to Lady Fitzwygram's so he could bring whoever fell in the lake he could bring them home and nearly every year he had to bring somebody home because they had an old punt out on the lake and all the boys tried to get the punts and of course naturally somebody fell in there. Now I can remember them being all wet and he had to bring them home and it was really great fun.

I stayed up at school until I was 14. I had to leave at 14 and then I went out to domestic service because my mother saw you learn to do things properly when you went to service and so at 14 my first job was it Doctor Ricketts at Havant and we either had a walk or get a bus if you were lucky to on your half day off but I had a friend who had a bicycle and I used to put my foot on a little tiny thing at the back and put my knee on a carrier which wasn't very comfortable but that's how I got back home after my half day and we had every other Sunday afternoon off but I was staying there for nearly two years and I had to leave because mum was expecting my younger brother yeah unexpectedly sort of thing so I had to leave to come home help to look over after some of the other boys so that's how I came to leave down there but it was quite enjoyable and I learnt quite a lot while I was there and they were very kind to me.

And your next job my next job was at it in Westbourne where I met my husband Vic and we were married on his birthday in 1941 and we had 66 years together which was lovely. yeah so I was working at Westbourne at a house called The Lawn. There was only one lady and we had a lady's maid and Nelly, her old Nelly and my sister was cook and I was house parlourmaid and we stayed there all the summer then when it began to get cold and nasty we had another house in Southsea in Portland Terrace and it was a beautiful house but I didn't, I hated it down there because I didn't like the town but we were down there for all together we done seven years down there seven years at The Lawn but after the war on January the 10th we were absolutely when the Portsmouth had that fire and everywhere was burnt my sister and I had to go to the shelter underneath Saint Jude's church and when we came out everything around was burnt all Palmerston Road everywhere we didn't think we'd better get it anywhere but of course we could the next morning we packed up with whatever we could in the car we came back to Westbourne and we never went back down to Southsea anymore but Needless to say my poor mother and father were going frantic as I could see

it from here and my dad got his bicycle out and tried to get down to us but of course when he got to Farlington he was stopped by the wardens and said you can't go any further sir, he said yes I can my 2 girls are down there but of course he had to come back but next morning when we got back to The Lawns the first thing we did was to come up and see mum and dad which was