

MR GEORGE HYDE

Born July 1914

George was born in the old shop, since pulled down, which was in the grounds of his present house, Riverdale, Uploders, opposite Home Farm. The old shop was in his grandmother's house, where she sold groceries and general goods. Granny Hyde, whose maiden name was Gurd and who originated from South Street, Bridport, was a well known character in Loders, where she lived until she was 94. George's grandfather came from Askerswell and used to work on the farms, labouring and hedging. He was one of the founder members of the Friendly Society, started by Sir Evan Nepean over 100 years ago. When the couple came to Loders, they lived at number 12 and started a little shop there and, in December 1911, they bought the house where George was born.

George's parents lived at 'The Cabin', Uploders and he was the eldest of seven children, five boys and two girls. His mother's maiden name was Gale and she was brought up in Rose Cottage, Uploders. His father went into the army during the First World War and, on his return, he took a job as a carter at Barwick. George did not want to leave Loders, so he stayed and lived with his grandmother.

Miss Read taught George at Loders School; she used to bicycle in from West Bay every day, with her dog in the basket on the front. While he was still at school, in 1926, he remembers the present Village Hall being built; two of his uncles helped to build it. He left school at the age of 14 and started work as an errand boy for Stead and Simpson's shoe shop. After that, he worked at a grocer's shop for three years and then, for a change, went down to the milk factory, canning cream. After a spell on the buses, he started in the building trade, where he spent the rest of his working life.

Dora Paul was at school with George and lived at 36 Loders. They were married at Loders Church on April 20th 1940 and now live in a house that George built himself. Dora was in service before they were married. In 1942 George joined the Royal Ordnance Corps and was away for three years. Because of the skills of his trade, he was engaged in building and repairs. The couple have one son, Bryan, and three grandchildren.

George is very active in the village, having served on the Parish Council for 30 years, 10 of those as chairman. He is also very involved with Uploders Chapel and was a bellringer for some years. On April 20th 1990, their Golden Wedding Anniversary, they were given a surprise party at Loders Village Hall by their family and friends, a fitting tribute to their long life in the village.

INTERVIEW 14

**INTERVIEWER: Pat Hughes
Yondover Farmhouse
Loders**

DATE: 1st November 1990

**MR GEORGE HYDE, BORN: JULY 1914
RIVERDALE
UPLODERS**

Description of life in Loders since the first world war, work in the building trade and life as a Parish Councillor.

Interview with Mr George Hyde of Riverdale, Uploders, on 1st November 1990.

Interviewer, Mrs Pat Hughes of Yondover Farmhouse, Loders.

Int: Were you born in the village?

GH: I was actually born in Uploders in July 1914. I was actually born in the old shop, which is within a stone's throw of where we are now.

Int: Can you describe it.

GH: The old shop was actually in the house itself. By the side of it, there was an old blacksmith's shop.

Int: Opposite Home Farm Close, in the grounds of your present house?

GH: Yes.

Int: You've built this very nice new house here. How long have you been living here?

GH: Nearly three years.

Int: You've got a lovely garden, with a lot of apple trees.

GH: Some of the old apple trees have gone; I can remember most of them being planted. It's the old orchard. We used to keep pigs and chicken.

Int: Was this your grandmother's house as well as your mother's house?

GH: It was never me mother's house, it was my grandmother's house, because I actually lived with my grandmother. My father went into the army during the First World War and we were living just up the road, which is 'The Cabin' at present, now. When my father came back from the war, he took a job as a carter over at Barwick and I came down and lived wi' me grandmother, because I didn't want to leave Loders.

Int: Did you have any brothers and sisters?

GH: I've four brothers and two sisters, Ernest, Margaret, Sydney, Douglas, Albert and Sylvia.

Int: Where did you come in that group?

GH: I was the eldest of the family.

Int: Did you lose touch with your family?

GH: I didn't lose touch, but I always treated my grandmother more as my mother than my mother was, although I used to visit my mother at holiday times from school.

Int: Tell me about your grandmother; she was quite old when she died, wasn't she?

GH: she was 94 when she died. She originated from South Street in Bridport and in her older days I've heard her say how she used to have to sell a box of bloaters before she went to school and things like that. Very amusing, the things they had to do. This was when she was in Bridport, before she was married.

Int: So she had to work and help out the family, while she was still at school. Her maiden name was Gurd. It was a local name.

Int: Then she married a Hyde. Where did your grandfather come from?

GH: I've never really followed it, where he came from, but the first I knew of it was when he married and they went to Askerswell to live. He came to Loders from Askerswell, lived at Lower Loders, well, what is number 12 Loders. They started a little shop there. Then in December 1911 they bought this property here and came up here to live and started the shop here. My grandfather used to work on the farms, mainly labouring and hedging, hoeing.

Int: What sort of shop did your grandmother run?

GH: General shop, groceries and general. All the village used to use these old shops, 'cos you didn't want to go to Bridport. If you wanted to go you had to either walk or there's no cars etc, things like that. No 'bus.

Int: You had to go on the carriers cart, or get things brought in from Bridport?

GH: Tha's right. Mrs Macey, with 'er horse and trap, used to go to Bridport. She used to live at Raikes.

Int: I thought Mr Macey was the carrier.

GH: Well Mr Macey was the carrier, but then Mrs Macey carried it on as well, afterwards. After he died, and still lived at Raikes.

Int: Were there any more shops in Uploders?

GH: Yes, there was one at the forge, Mrs Knight used to ... not so much in the grocery way, just sweets and things like that.

Int: She had a shop in the house, did she, and the forge was next door?

GH: That's right. We had Mr Tudball, the shoemaker, who used to live in number 2 Bon Cottage.

Int: From the 1841 census, there was a shoemaker in Yondover; I wonder whether that business carried on.

GH: I can't remember one there. I mean there were shops, like in Loders as well, besides Uploders. There was Mrs Budden's* and then there used to be one where Mrs Howell lives**. That was just a little general sweet shop, that sort of thing. There used to be a carpenter, well this used to be a carpenter's shop, up where Mr Hughes lives.

Int: That he calls Wheelwrights Cottage?

GH: That used to be a carpenter's shop. Then there was Mr Gill, up where Mr Davis lives, at Hillview, used to be an undertaker as well.

Int: He was a carpenter and an undertaker, he used to make coffins as well?

GH: Tha's right.

Int: Your father, you told me, came from Askerswell. Where did your mother come from?

GH: From Uploders. Her maiden name was Gale. She used to live at Rose Cottage, where they've got the monstrosity of a garage, in front of it now.

Int: I know exactly where you mean! It used to be a pretty little cottage, too.

GH: She was married from there.

Int: Your brothers and sisters, are they all still alive?

GH: No, I've lost two brothers, one recently. One's at Maiden Newton, but the others are farther away.

Int: Can you describe a typical day in your grandmother's life, before you went to school.

GH: She used to have to get up and feed the pigs and feed the chicken. If anyone came to the door, the shop was open. She was always busy.

Int: What did you do with yourself as a very tiny child?

GH: Well I think we used to get away up in the fields an' tha' and play, the children, you know. Then there was always Sunday School an' tha' at the Chapel. Still go to the church, but most people like that was local and you went to the chapel. The Sunday school teacher used to walk out from Bridport, Sunday morning and we used to have a service in the afternoon and in the evening.

There must have been a lot more children in the village then.

GH: There was. The families were bigger in them days.

Int: Did most people go to church?

GH: Oh I think so, church or chapel.

Int: Then you started to go to Loders School?

GH: Yes. I liked Loders School very well. Miss Read, she was the school teacher, used to come from West Bay, with 'er dog, on the bike. I did very well at school. I left school when I was 14, Loders School, then I started work after that. The first job, I went into Stead & Simpsons shoe shop as an errand boy at 7/6 a week. I did that for a month, then I thought I must do something different, to try and get more money. So I went in a grocers shop, that was in Bridport too.

Int: How did you get from Loders to Bridport?

GH: Bicycle. I di'n 'ave a bike until after I left school. With us we had to walk. We used to go into Bridport for woodwork classes an' tha'. We had to walk in there for half a day an' walk back again. Well, we used to go across the fields, up Bar Lane and across Green Lane an' down that way.

Int: Was Bar Lane always as muddy as it is now?

GH: No, no, it was quite good going up through there. It's muddy but it used to be used more at that time. The banks have come down, at the sides.

Int: Do you remember the cottages at the bottom of Bar Lane?

GH: That's the ones that were burnt out. I can remember that; I was going to school at the time. We saw the fire when we came from school. We had several fires round about that time; there was another one up at the barn by number 12, that was burnt out.

Int: That was when Edgar Bishop's father owned it. Did they have to rebuild it?

GH: They put a new roof on.

Int: There were a lot of rick fires too.

GH: Yes, you get them around. The threshing machines used to start them up. Sparks comin' out.

Int: You were telling me you worked in a grocers shop in Bridport. How long did you do that for?

GH: Oh, I did that for about ..., nearly three years, I expect. Then I thought I wanted a bit more outdoor life, so I had a change, went down the milk factory for a summer, canning cream. The cream used to be imported from Ireland; that was where East Street garages are now, the milk factory was. That's where a lot of it used to come from. Then I did a summer conducting on the buses; went and stayed at Sidmouth, used to come back on the buses up to Bridport, West Bay and back. Then I started in the building trade and spent the rest o' me life in the building trade.

Int: You said you used to do woodwork classes in Bridport.

GH: First of all we used to have them at what was the old grammar school, then afterwards we went down Chancery Lane, an old building there. There's still a woodworker there, I think. I wasn't a carpenter by trade.

Int: You played a part in building the village hall, didn't you?

GH: No, I didn't do anything as regards building it, because that was being built when I was going to school, about 1926. I had two uncles helping with it at the time. They put a lot of time at it and they weren't tradesmen who did it.

Int: It was built for ex-servicemen originally. Sir Edward le Breton gave the land, didn't he?

GH: That's where the money came from, the Ex-servicemen. Well actually, it wasn't given at the time, there was a rent they were paying, quite a small rent, a peppercorn rent. It was given afterwards. The ex-servicemen actually got the money together - they had their gratuities, it which weren't very much. That was put together by a skittle alley. That skittle alley went round different areas, being let out and earning money that way to get the money to build the hut.

Int: So the skittle alley could be taken apart and put together again. There was a village hall, the Old Parish Hall, was that functioning then?

GH: Oh, yes, this one up here, oh yes, or the school was used quite a bit.

Int: They used to have dances at the Village Hall (Ex-servicemen's Hut). Who organised those?

GH: Different people. I've organised quite a few myself. We used to have a committee and we used to organise dances.

Int: Can you tell me about clubs and societies in the village.

GH: Well, societies; there was a Friendly Society here, that started ..., actually my grandfather was one of the founder members, he was number four on the books when they opened up, about 103, 104 years ago, something like that. It was Sir Evan Nepean Lodge. Nepean was actually the man living at Loders Court and it was in his time it was started and it was in his name. Of course, that was done for benefit, there was no money from the government or anything. I think if you were ill, you used to get about six shillings a week sick pay and things like that. We used to have meetings every month. They used to be held at Loders, then came to Uploders Village Hall, then when that closed down, they went to the Wesleyan Chapel and held them. Now that's not disbanded, but it's

gone into Dorchester, membership has gone there over the years, it's not needed so much, you see you've got more money and you don't worry about these things. You paid into it monthly.

Int: There were sports clubs, weren't there?

GH: We used to have the Fete and sports every year and that used to include the flower show. I can remember the youngsters, we used to have them and have a prize, like for the most white butterflies an' that. We used to pin them on a board and things like that. We had cycle races and things like that. Down in the Park, we made a course out for it. A tug-of-war across the river. I've seen it done. A greasy pole's been across the river. 'Course we used to have the Boy Scouts and that 'ere. Col le Breton, he was very good to us, he used to take us to camp and things like that. First in the cubs, then in the scouts.

Int: Was the village very different when you were growing up and at school? What was it like?

GH: Well I think you knew everybody in the village. Of course, people didn't move about as much as they do today and you knew where everybody lives and everything. Somebody wanted to find somebody, well you could tell them, now it's a job to, unless you've got an electoral role to look at! No one had telephones.

Int: Was the road done up by then?

GH: No, I think it was tarred in about '26. I've got it somewhere in my records. Of course the traffic was different, used to have the old steam wagons an' that coming on, with coal and stuff like that coming. We used to ride on the back of them, jump on 'em coming up the hill. They weren't going at the speed that they're going now! There was two carriers, John's father (Ellis) used to do it as well, you see. The road was quite rough then, the old steam roller used to come on.

Int: What about water?

GH: Water from the well. Used to go out to the shoot here and fetch the water, although there is a well, the shoot across the road. The well's not in use now. We used to use it.

Int: We haven't got a well at Yondover Farmhouse, but I think people used to use the shoot across the road.

GH: Not the one opposite you, but the next one up, that's the drinking water, because the other one comes down through the farm, but as youngsters, we used to drink off that top one. That used to be always scrubbed out, mind you for the neighbours there went and fetched their water an' that. That's one of our treasures, by the way, the village treasures, in case you don't know. Those two troughs, the water troughs, those drinking troughs are our oldest treasures. If you look back in Harold Brown's book, it's written there. The Parish Council always treats that as one of our treasures, so I hope they'll be kept like it. Because it's them sort of things we don't want to lose. There've been so many changes. They were shaped out where the horses used to drink, you notice, with the cups like that.

Int: I believe the bottom one used to flow down over the road, to the river, before it was put underground.

GH: Yes, and the top one used to come down, that was open, down the road. We had no water and sewage here. They put the sewage in as I was building this. Of course, we couldn't 'ave the sewage until we had the water.

Int: You were tinning cream in the milk factory. What did you do then?

GH: As I say, I went on the buses and then afterwards I started working for Osbornes, the builders, in Bridport. They were going to build a bungalow out the road, where Mrs Paul lives, Nanny Hawker, what was. There are three bungalows together, at the far end 'ere, Mrs Low's, then there's Mr Whittington's, before you get to Shatcombe, it's one o' them, at this end. That's where I started in the building trade. I went on there, s'posed to be goin' on for a month and I did 30 odd years. A long month!

Int: When did you meet your wife?

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GH: When did I meet my wife? Must 'a been I s'pose in school days, when I met 'er. We both went to Loders School. She's born in the village, her maiden name was Paul. When I got married, she was living at 36 Loders, it's nearly down to the church. She was working, she was in service. She went to West Bay to work and into Bridport, in service. We've got one child, Brian and we got three grandchildren, one boy and two girls. Brian lives at Bradpole. He's in the buildin' trade. It's been a good trade, but it's not so good now. It's a trade that's always needed.

3 Int: Tell me about your life in the village. You've been pretty active, particularly on the Parish Council.

GH: Well, I try to be active, I've tried to do what I could for the village. As regards the Parish Council, it's 30 years ago, I s'pose, I joined.

Int: You were chairman and are chairman again, I believe.

GH: I did nine years and thought it was time for a change, so I dropped out and Mr Balfour took it on for a twelve month, but he wouldn't carry on, so pushed me back in again.

Int: You're very active, I believe, in the Chapel, as well.

GH: Well, we do our little bit you know.

Int: Tell me about it, don't be too modest.

GH: What else 'ave I done? I've been bell ringer. I was bell ringing, I was secretary of the bellringers for 25 years. I did longer than that ringing. Just one of the local things. O' course being ?^{o' fellows}, Royal Order of Moose, different things.

Int: What's the Royal Order of Moose?

GH: It's doing charity things, things like that.

Int: You were here during the second world war and went on working in the building trade?

GH: We went on working 'till I joined the army in 1942, May '42. I was away three and a half years. I went to Dorchester for me training and from there I got transferred to the engineers on building. 'Course that time, all the builders were getting called up together, you know. After I'd been in the engineers some little time, I got transferred to the Ordnance Corp, but I was still on building, then. I didn't go abroad. We were on new depots, blitz depots; we were always ready to do any blitz work and I finished up quite a long time on Lord Leverhulme's (?) estate, Thorton Hough (?), near Birkenhead. Quite a busy time.

Int: But you still wanted to come back to Loders?

GH: Oh yes, I still used to come back when I could.

Int: So that was your choice when you were a small child and your choice later, to come back here.

X Int: You were telling me about when your grandfather died, this was during the war.

GH: Tha's right, he was out hedging and tha' and he had a stroke and they brought him home unconscious and he lay in bed a couple o' days an' we had a raid across here and they dropped the bombs, a string of them, across from Shatcombe across to the hill at back of Waddon. Now there was another time, after I joined the army, I came back down, I don't know if it was for 48 hour leave, and we had the bombs drop on Bridport. George Hicks and his father used to keep the Seven Stars and he got killed. That's one of the bad incidences.

Int: There were evacuees, weren't there, in the village?

GH: Yes, there were quite a few evacuees in the village. Soldiers billeted, searchlights up the road, ack-ack. The searchlight was up past Matravers, between Matravers and Askerswell.

Int: Otherwise, I suppose the war didn't affect you very much at Loders, except in connection with Portland.

GH: We used to see the scraps going on, with Portland being raided and tha'. We were lucky really.