

## Transcript of Maureen Trent Interview, June 2022

### Maureen speaking to Ben Heath.

Maureen: I'm Maureen Trent and I'm 82 years old and I've lived in the area best part of my life and in between and I went to school at Rydal Lodge, which is at the end of Radipole Park Drive. And in one of the rooms I always used to look down out the window, which is probably not a good thing. Our sports teacher was a Miss Cook, she used to take us to play tennis down on the courts and she was a well-known player. There didn't used to be a pavilion, that came later on when the tournaments were there. All the tennis courts were occupied. It was a very busy area.

I lived on the other side of Dorchester Road, so we used to come down the back of King's Road, slide down the bank and play and run about in amongst, there was trees going down. At the end of the tennis courts, before you got to the gardens, there was toilets which were never, like most gardens and that, were never very clean, but they were there. And also, I can remember, I'm not quite sure when it was, there was the paddling pool for us put up. And it was never very clean. But then later on I brought my own children down there as well. And it still wasn't very clean, but I think it's all been altered now. And we just played generally really. And also, at the school, I'm going back again, we had sports day there and just went around in the field, so there wasn't a lot going on at that particular time, but it was just somewhere nice for the children to be free. And it was always safe, I must add that, it was safe to do that, yeah.

Ben: And did you enjoy playing in the park, somewhere big and open?

Maureen: Yeah, yes, yes.

Ben: Somewhere to run around.

Maureen: Run around - you could always play touch...play tennis as well. We used to go down and have a go on our own. And then going through the park or the gardens of course you go through Alexandra Bridge. And so we used to go up there, and also Spa Road, and because they wait for the steam trains to go and catch the smoke. And so we used to go up there as well. So we were fortunate where we lived, we went both ways to get into the Park.

Ben: And was the train quite busy, was there quite a lot of trains?

Maureen: Oh, there was always a lot of busy and also Radipole Holt was there then you see. And you used to get all the people who used to stop the train and everything then so it was really good.

Ben: And was there quite a lot of like holiday makers and visitors always coming into the town?

Maureen: Oh they were always coming into the town. It was very, very busy and the doors would open of the carriages and they'd all pile out. And then just all go and catch buses and everything. Yeah, Weymouth was different in that sense, yes.

Ben: Yeah. And like you said, it was all steam trains. So what was the sort of smells and noises?

Maureen: Yes, that's why we took up on the bridge, you see. And someone would say there's a train coming so we'd all run and stand there and sort of get there and just get covered in smoke and it was just good fun.

Ben: Excellent. Sounds brilliant.

Maureen: I used to do that with my own children because we still lived there. Then we'd come down and then we'd feed the Swans a bit at the bottom part there. So my own children played there as well.