

Winslow Oral History Project

Interview Summary

Interviewee	Jean Dale	Sex	female
DOB	3/5/1933	Place of birth	Ilford, Essex
Father's occupation			
Mother's occupation			
Interviewer	Mary Hunt		
No. of files (tracks)	4	Copyright status	Full clearance
Abstract	Jean Dale describes work as a photographer in Granborough and Winslow and owning a shop in Greyhound Lane, Winslow. Most of her work was weddings, portraiture and printing. Jean recounts anecdotes about 2 Aylesbury weddings, Sir Edward and Lady Tomkins, Princess Margaret, Dr Rudd. Describes some local events e.g. Winslow Show, a Remembrance Day parade in the 1950's, photographing hearses for the local undertaker, a firework display managed by Dr Rudd.		
Keywords	Photography, printing, wedding, Winslow Show, photographic exhibition, Remembrance Day, Firework Display		
Key names	Cow and Gate, Luke Dale, British Telecom, Buckingham Advertiser, Rev. Barnes, Rev. Johnson, Rev. Whalley, John Dale, Sir Edward Tomkins, Lady Tomkins, Queen Mother, Princess Margaret, Dr. Rudd, Mr Taylor, Girl Guides, Cherie Rush, Buckingham Beales Hotel,		
File			
Jean Dale 0002 (19-4-11)	Born Essex, Ilford. Moved to Granborough with parent 1951.		
00.32	First worked at Lloyds Bank, Aylesbury		
00.47	Moved to Cow and Gate, Aylesbury where she joined the Photographic Club. [1962]. Learned photography, processing and printing there. Entered a competition of Cow and Gate versus Aylesbury Club and was given good marks for her pictures.		
01.50	Enjoyed photography and decided to offer a photographic service in the home. Describes the difficulties of offering such a service while working full-time.		
03.35	Moved into Winslow in 1970. By then had started wedding photography and was moving into colour work. Because she was unable to process colour photographs they were sent out to a firm.		
Jean Dale 0003 (19-4-11)	Married 1974. Finished work. Had son, Luke, 1977. Continued wedding and events photography, Silver Jubilee, passports, portraiture, animals, christenings.		
01.12	1986/7 moved on to offer printing services – letter paper and business cards. Had started letterpress printing in her shed at home.		
01.40	[Around 1988] rented shop on the corner of Greyhound Lane, Winslow. Offering a wide range of services. Comments that first person to offer photocopying service in Winslow, also offered picture framing service, D & P and sold films as well as the photographic service.		
03.04	Work included contract from British Telecom to photograph delegates on study courses. Comments on difficulty of getting pictures ready in short timescale. Enjoyed customer service in the shop. Offering letterpress and offset printing.		
04.28	Recession and advent of computers meant that shop no longer viable. Not		

	<p>enough people going by. Closed 1989/90. Very disappointed. Had had heart attack from working too hard. In 1988 had featured in Buckingham Advertiser article on women in business.</p>
06.28	<p>Kept doing wedding photography after the shop closed. Eventually doing weddings for the children of those she had photographed years before. Describes problems of wedding photography – weather, difficult people. Describes how she met the bride and groom before the wedding to get to know them and establish their requirements. Used a wedding ‘skeleton’, a plan of which pictures to take and in what order. Very proud of some of these wedding pictures. Problems of taking pictures in church until recently although Catholics were happy with this. Describes two Aylesbury weddings, a catholic one and a wedding where she had to make a speech.</p>
15.50	<p>Had rented the shop from Buckinghamshire County Council, believes formerly a jewellers. Had an upstairs as well. Did not do portraiture in the shop but at people’s homes and sometimes her own home.</p>
16.45	<p>Describes a commission for the undertaker in Winslow photographing his cars at Stowe for promotional use. Also photographed coffins for publicity brochures. Photographed coaches for a local company. Also photographed the Buckingham [Beales] Hotel and another hotel in the same group in Witney. Describes difficulties in taking these pictures.</p>
Jean Dale 004 (19-4-11)	<p>Jean details some of the people that she photographed. Pictures of three vicars in the vestry, Revs. Barnes, Johnson and Whalley, also her former husband, the lay-reader John Dale. Pictures of the church choir taken.</p>
00.57	<p>Sir Edward and Lady Tomkins were customers. Jean photographed one of their children in the early 60s and later their grandchildren. Sir Edward and Lady Tomkins had a close relationship with the Royal Family, especially the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret, both of whom stayed at Winslow Hall. Jean relates an anecdote about her husband, John Dale, administering communion to Princess Margaret. Lady Tomkins very friendly person. Jean invited to lunch at Winslow Hall and recalls their hospitality and frugality.</p>
04.34	<p>Jean was associated with the production of the Parish Magazine. Recalls using the gestetner duplicator at Dr Rudd’s house with Mr Taylor, the editor at the time, and drinking Dr Rudd’s home-made beer. Recounts another story from probably the 1960’s about Dr Rudd organising the annual firework display in the grounds of Winslow Hospital when all the fireworks went off at once.</p>
08.10	<p>Jean recounts a story about a Remembrance Day parade in the 1950s.</p>
	<p>Discusses her photographic equipment, a Pentax 35mm camera, and a Bronica 125mm colour camera. Recounts difficulties of processing black and white film without a darkroom – used mother’s airing cupboard. Anecdote about a wedding picture in her shop window. Details problems of wedding photography.</p>
Jean Dale 005 (19-4-11)	<p>Recalls taking pictures of horses and fancy dress participants at Winslow Show in the 60’s. The show was started by the Oddfellows. Also involved in Girl Guide movement and they were invited to provide the lunch for the Great Horwood Band. Sent show photos to the Buckingham Advertiser and they were put on the front page. Wedding photos went into the local paper at one time and Jean describes the process for this.</p>
02.30	<p>Once had a marquee at the Winslow Show, shared with Cherie Rush, local artist, to promote her services. Had just started offering wedding stationery service. Had an account with CCA Stationery and one with Sharps. One year went up to a stationery show in London and made business contacts. Young woman</p>

	<p>offered to help in shop. Jean very busy and gave her the reprint orders to do. Offered a picture framing service – work done by man at Wing. Samples in shop and Jean advised on mounts and frames which she was good at. Also needed skill to take impromptu pictures at weddings. Couldn't remember names of either the picture framer or the young woman.</p>
07.43	<p>Asked about storage of her photos - Jean keeps them in large boxes in the house. Wedding photos are labelled, others not. Would need a lightbox to examine them and identify them. Only very early pictures are dated. Hoping to get another scanner, one which will do larger negatives. Would like to hand material over to someone for safekeeping.</p>
10.17	<p>Asked if exhibited her work. One exhibition with Cherie Rush, about 1988, in the St Laurence Room for two days. Raised £300 for the church. This was photographed by the Buckingham Advertiser. Another exhibition October 2008, a retrospective, for one day made £100 for church.</p>
11.44	<p>Asked about copyright for pictures Jean said copyright is with her.</p>