

Thorne and Hatfield Moors Oral History Project

Interview with: Brian Hibbard (part 2)

Date: 24 October 2006

Interviewer: Lynne Fox

Summary

Brian Hibbard has worked on Thorne Moors all his life. His mother and father worked on the moor (see Annie & Ernest Hibbard recordings). He worked on the loading gangs from hand loading for Fisons through to operating the machinery used in surface milling. Still an employee of Scotts UK, Brian has been very closely involved in the restoration of the Moors.

Peat for Harrogate health spa & whisky peat

Walling gangs – contract workers. Affects of introduction of machinery - Rutting machine

Wet summer in 1970s – picking fish up on the peat flats

Story about igniting gas from the peat

Adapting a car to run on the moor railway (see Jim Dickinson interview)

Dad was one of last 3 people to grave turf by hand on Swinefleet Moor.

Filling the last wagon – 21 October 2005

His experience of direct action by conservation protesters – blocking drains – removing blockages with explosives

Finds on the moor – an old penny at Whaley Balk, bottles, someone found gold sovereign, old lad's story of finding a 'longboat'

Story of supernatural experience on Swinefleet Moor

Experience of being out on moor – stag at daybreak. Increase in deer sightings

Fire watching. Garden at the 'paraffin mill' (Moorends Mill)

Using rainwater to wash

Description of the Paraffin Mill in the 1970s. Demolition of houses and aqueduct.

Demolition of Medge Hall mill 1978

Fire risk & fire watching. Using fire as a management tool.

Big fire in peat stacks at Bank Top c1973 – fighting the fire

Difficulties of fighting fires on the moor – lack of water, nature of peat

Big fire in 1970.

Working after a fire.

Gating the moor in 1984. Attitude of people of Moorends to access. Vandalism

Access versus security