

Thorne and Hatfield Moors Oral History Project

Interview with: Dave Lyon

Date: 9 November 2006

Interviewer: Lynne Fox

Summary

Dave and Richard Lyon's grandparents moved to Lindholme Hall in the early 1930s and the family have farmed there ever since. Lindholme is an island almost exactly in the centre of Hatfield Moor. It is the subject of much historical conjecture and mythical stories, mostly surrounding the figure of William 'Billy' de Lindholme, a supposed medieval hermit. Lindholme Island, as part of a geological 'ridgeway' type feature, could have prehistoric importance and the Neolithic trackway discovered nearby in 2004 may have connected to the island. (see Mike Oliver, Paul Buckland, Henry Chapman & Ben Gearey recordings).

Extent of family living at Lindholme Hall when he was born in 1962. How extended family accommodated itself within the Hall.

Family history – how they came to Lindholme. State of the farm when they took it over – lived on rabbits.

Description of location & isolation of Hall

History of the island, house & farm.

German prisoners of war working on the farm – painted frieze in the dining room – record of farm at the time.

Dad was collector – had well-known collections of 'everything' including George Formby's ukulele
Good & bad side of isolation. Travelling to school, youth club etc. activities concentrated around the house & moor.

Childhood memories. What the moors were like when he was younger. Work on the farm. Father keen on shooting – had own shoot

Current arrangements for the working farm

He is a policeman not a farmer.

Parents' keen not to over exploit the environment – interested in conservation

Description of moors prior to surface milling and afterwards. Surrounding desolation reinforced family's stance.

Topography of Lindholme Island. Underlying soils

Drilling for oil on Hatfield Moor. Gas explosion in 1980s. Boots Hansen brought over from USA to control fire. Father relit the capped gas jet with a flaming arrow fired from brother's toy bow.

Sand & gravel extraction on Hatfield Moor – Tyreham Hall

Mum was typical farmer's wife supporting men at work

Ancient well & current water supply. Supply of domestic services - Heating & lighting etc - no piped gas supply

William de Lindholme. Stories & 'evidence' around the house. Visit by Samuel Wesley

His own discoveries about the house during his refurbishment work

Eeriness of moor – ghost story (see Shirley Squires recording)

Going to school across Lindholme airfield. Lindholme Prison

Access onto moor – naturalists & bird-watchers.