Ingrid wrote her memories of the changes in the village since she moved here in 1973. The recording is of a small extract of the whole document. This extract describes what the village was like in the 1970s and how it has grown.

“The most obvious change has been the growth of the village, with the Garth estate and Appletree Drive being developed in the late 1970’s and the Redrow estate in the early 2000’s, with many smaller developments such as Richardson Court, Gibson Close, Toll Bar & One Acre, The Cherwells, Station Close and The Yorkdales in the intervening years. The village now has over 850 dwellings centred round the A63 and the village green.

Life in the 1970’s in Hambleton provided lots of different working and social activities for the residents, with farming being the major working environment and the garage, car showroom & petrol station, The Red Lion, The Wheatsheaf, the Old Post Office in Chapel Street, Campey’s Warehouse, Dances’ Grain store, the village Primary School and The Owl all providing further levels of employment for residents.

When I came to Hambleton the Primary School had settled in to its new site on Gateforth Lane with Mrs. Holland as Headmistress and 6 Class teachers. The pre-school Playgroup was held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings in the village Institute on Station Road. On Sundays there was Sunday school led by Lucy and Gilbert Thwaites.

A Mother and Toddler group was formed in 1978 by Jenny Banks, Christine North and myself to help new Mums to the village get to know each other. Initially we had no money so for the inaugural meeting, to ascertain the level of support, everyone attending had to pay towards the cost of hiring the hall and the refreshments. Luckily the room was filled to capacity and some funds were raised to cover the costs of opening meeting but not enough to purchase any toys for under 2’s. So, the Committee that had been formed brought toys from home, which they took home at the end of the session. Lots of well supported fund raising took place and eventually Mother and Toddler group started to purchase new toys. The weekly sessions, on Wednesday afternoons, took place in the Old School, with the large coke fired boiler being lit during the winter months to keep the chill out of the air. Every Christmas there would be a Christmas party with a visit from Father Christmas delivering presents for all the children who attended.

Children, from the age of approximately 2 ½ years old, and if they were dry, attended Playgroup in the Institute. The children attending a maximum of 2 mornings a week because of the restricted places and Mums had to volunteer their services twice a term to help supervise the children. As time went on the number of morning sessions increased to the whole of the working week because of the influx of children from the new housing developments. Children moved on to the Primary school in the term of their 5th birthday.

The Parents of the village school children formed Friends of Hambleton School in order to support the School, through fund raising, and provide extra facilities that the School Budget did not cover. School fairs were regular events, as were the Annual themed Barn Dances, held either at Hagg Bush Farm or Manor Farm in Chapel Street. These events were total sell-outs which required months of organisation and planning, with the final days getting the venue ready for live music, disco and refreshments including a bar. The food was usually left to the female members of the Committee and the men took charge of the bar. The whole School community entered into the spirit of this fund raising, everyone taking a number of tickets to sell and very often going back to see if there were any spare, unsold tickets. I remember one year a member of staff roasted several large turkeys for the buffet and everyone else prepared different salads and cold sweets. The summer and Christmas fairs, held in the School hall, were also very busy occasions and one year Nicky Dyson and I baked and iced 144 chocolate buns which were sold on the cake stall and as refreshments. Such was the support that all the buns sold to make that fund raising part of the whole event a success.”