Helen’s oral history includes her memory of starting the youth club in the 1980s, the activities and her thoughts on how village life has changed. In this extract she describes starting the Youth Club.

“I was approached by my daughter and her friends to say there was nothing to do on a night time in the village, and no youth club, nowhere to go really. So, I looked into it, and I attended a youth forum at Selby Abbey School one night, I took a couple of the kids with me, and they sort of talked me through it. A lot of them are youth leaders, very experienced and, of course, I wasn’t experienced at anything, only children. And so, we talked it through and I thought, ‘right, well, we’ll see what we can do’. Anyway, so, I got another parent on board, which is Pam Brown, who lives in West Croft Lane in Hambleton, and she said, ‘yeah, I’ll give you a hand, ‘cos her daughter was friendly with my daughter’. So, we talked about it. Anyway, one of the businessmen that lives in Hambleton, Billy Senior, does double glazing, said, ‘well, you know, if you need any money up front I will lend you the money to set up, buying sweets, some pop and crisps, and stuff like that just to start it off’, and then when we had the money we would repay him. So, we looked into it and we put in a newsletter about we wanted a pool table, wanted a ping pong table, and we got some response, and some people at Gateforth had given us a table and a ping pong, so it set us off. And then we asked the Parish Council for some funding, and they – we wanted a CD player and some games, so they actually gave us some money, not – I can’t quite recall how much, and Rose Dunn came to Weatherall’s and picked the games out and then we sourced a CD player.

So, we’re up and running by this time. And then we had to get the village hall, which is always the players and other things, whist drive, and what have you, so the only night we could have was a Sunday, which wasn’t ideal for me, but it was a start. So, we did from 11 to 16 year olds and we had the big room in the village hall and we set it up, and this was in 1997. And so, that’s what we did. So, we had – what we used to do was, we had Bingo, we had quizzes, we had team events; we split the girls and the boys. We had the odd Christmas party as well, and we had days out to theme parks. Which they really enjoyed. We hired a big bus and me and Pam used to take the – the older ones can look after themselves. But the younger ones we supervised, and it was all signed by the parents that they – you know, they could come with us. And we did it for – oh, I did it for about two and a half years/three years, and personal circumstances I had to give it up.”