Chris’s oral history includes his memory of his time in the Old School and village life when he moved to the village in the 1970s. The recording is not of the best quality and ends abruptly as there were issues with the Dictaphone used. In this extract he remembers his time in the Old School.

“Mrs Holland was the Headteacher. There were three classes, you effectively got two years in each class. We were taught by Mrs Dibb who lived in Back Lane and the infants were taught by Mrs Gill who lived in Monk Fryston. Mrs Holland took the older class. The infant class was in the building that ran parallel to West View Terrace, you went down the roadway which was used to get to the back of the houses and the classroom had a fireplace and stove. The old school at that time had a very high ceiling which went right up to the roof and a sliding partition with a door in it that split the room in half and each had a pot bellied stove. The half in which Mrs Gill taught had a plate warmer for those who had school dinners as some pupils came from Gateforth and Thorpe Willoughby. If you lived at this end of Thorpe Willoughby you could go to Hambleton school. There was a stage at the end of Mrs Gill’s classroom and we used to put on school plays. In 1972 the building was 100 years old and I remember the booklet being produced and having a celebration but can’t remember what it was.

When we came here the old school house wall butted up to the school wall and there were cricket stumps painted on the wall of the house. There was a gate, like a farm gate, which we weren’t allowed to go through. I remember being told that the Head teacher before Mrs Holland used to live there but when we came it was virtually derelict. I looked through the window at the kitchen and there was a water pump and a Belfast sink. The entrance to get to the back of the school house was through the playground.”