John’s oral history includes his memory of life growing up in Hambleton. In this extract he remembers his early life and life as a teenager.

“I lived in Holly Cottage, which was then on Station Road, which they changed to St Mary’s Approach. I lived with me Mum and Dad, and me sister. Mum and Dad were Lena and George and sister was Jean. Holly Cottage used to be Grandma’s house, Grandma Anson’s and it was left to my dad in a will and they got married in 1948 and moved into the cottage then. I was actually born in Holly Cottage in 1955.

Dad worked for Alan Lister, and if ever I wanted anything I had to go on the farm and earn half of what it cost for new bike, or whatever. Mum used to help at certain times on the farm with potato harvest and picking potatoes and she did work in the little village shop for a while. I think the Buckle’s took the shop off the Lambs. I think I’d started work and Mum was at home by herself, so she just started doing a few hours in the shop and then it got to a few more and a few more.

I can remember Mrs Hall and there used to be a stand-in teacher come, I can remember her, she was called Mrs Irish and used to come with her dog. And then there was a Mrs Middleton used to come as holiday relief. I don’t think they were big classes. From what I can remember they would maybe be about 20, 25 at the most. The village was much smaller, I mean even I knew just about everybody. You could go on holiday and not lock the door an you were safe. I used to go to the Youth Club and from being about 13 Peter Spence got me playing cricket for Monk Fryston and Hillam, the village didn’t have a cricket team, we had a football team, a very poor team, but we had one. Alan Wray and Malcolm Carmichael had a lot to do with it.”