# Audio file

[Magdalene Cookson v2.MP3](https://msuclanac-my.sharepoint.com/personal/frobinson3_lancashire_ac_uk/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Magdalene%20Cookson%20v2.MP3)

# Transcript

Keith Vernon

Just put that there and. We’ll just kind of go over stuff again and you can fill things in.

Magdalene Cookson

Right, I've got various. Things, edits and corrections.

Keith Vernon

OK. Well, I think we might as well sort of go over things again and. And so like I said, so your your name and your date of birth, please.

Magdalene Cookson

Ohh Magdalene Cookson. 10th of September 1937.

Keith Vernon

And and when did you come to the Harris? And what course did you do?

Magdalene Cookson

I came to the Harris in 1951 to do commercial to the Commercial college?

Keith Vernon

Uh, that that was the junior commercial.

Magdalene Cookson

Well, I was 13 coming up 14 I think I must have started in September 1951 when the school year begins.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

I was 14 in September so so.

Keith Vernon

OK.

Magdalene Cookson

You know, I must have done the entrance exam.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Maybe when I was 12, I don't know. Before 13, I don't know.

Keith Vernon

OK. And and what kind of? What kind of education had you had before you came?

Magdalene Cookson

A usual small school education I went to a Catholic Primary school. Or it wasn't called a primary school, then it was a you went from age 5 and you left at 15. Which was a school leaving age in those stairs and straight out into the workplace.

Keith Vernon

Yeah. Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

But I did go in for the 11 plus at the time, but they haven't really given you any instructions in school in how to do an exam and I didn't know how. That probably didn't care either. And I did the exam in the school.

Keith Vernon

Uh-huh. Yeah. Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

And of course, being timed, I just looked at things and and and done about two or three of the at questions, answered those, and then they tell you to put your pencil down. And I have not done anywhere near enough to get anywhere near a good result.

Keith Vernon

All right. Where was the school? Where?

Magdalene Cookson

It was the St Francis at the Hill Chapel in Goosnargh.

Keith Vernon

OK.

Magdalene Cookson

And it's still operating and it's a very good school. It's developed since my day, you know.

Keith Vernon

And and what did what? What did your parents do?

Magdalene Cookson

My parents were me dad was a farmer.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

And my mother would stayed at home as a housewife, really. She was fully occupied.

Keith Vernon

So so. So he owned the farm and worked there.

Magdalene Cookson

It's was his, yes, they did a his father. He helped his Dad pay for the farm when they got it, and I think he must. He did a bit of engineering. It was. It started off with many bicycles then doing motorbikes and then he went to cars and buses and tractors and farm machinery.

Keith Vernon

Right. Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

It was, and he only went to a small school.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

And Marton New House. That's still going.

Keith Vernon

Right.

Magdalene Cookson

At Barton very good at maths. He was, yeah.

Keith Vernon

Right. Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

And. So he was working there. He didn't live on the. Farm. We didn't live on the farm because his mother, his his mother. I think his his mother was a widow. And him and his brother took over the farm. Really. Although my Dad had an interest in it because it he helped his father to buy it. That was the story I got from.

Keith Vernon

OK.

Magdalene Cookson

From them at the time, yeah.

Keith Vernon

But I had had either. If your parents had any secondary education.

Magdalene Cookson

Went straight into work there. Well, my I think 14 was the age for leaving school and their their days my mother went into.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

She she looked after children. She looked after a family of five children in Preston when she left school. And so it's kind of a nanny type thing.

Keith Vernon

Yeah. OK.

Magdalene Cookson

And. Cooking and that. And then she went to work at Clayton to somebody called Fitzherbert Brockholes. And she worked there until she got married, really. She inbetween going and working in Preston.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

They were bakers for people in a shop, you know.

Keith Vernon

Right.

Magdalene Cookson

In Preston. She worked on a farm across the field. She lived. It's the clang on Brock, near the Brockholes Horns really up to.

Keith Vernon

OK.

Magdalene Cookson

The pub there. That's still operated up the lane by that and she went in and worked as a a chef a cook.

Keith Vernon

Right.

Magdalene Cookson

And. And. Yeah, I think she enjoyed it. Yeah.

Keith Vernon

So how how how did you? How did you find out about the Harris? Presumably you took the entrance exam, did you?

Magdalene Cookson

I didn't personally find out myself, but.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

I have an aunty who is also my godmother, my Dad’s sister, a single lady and she did a lot and helped us, helped the parents really in bringing up us children, you know, and I think it may have come from the school originally.

Keith Vernon

Right.

Magdalene Cookson

Obviously they know and they they Headteacher, there would know and her name. It's come. It's Mrs Grimbledeston, which comes out with a very funny word from.

Keith Vernon

OK. I I know that surname, it's it. It's an unusual one, but that area and there's a couple of people from that area who have that surname.

Magdalene Cookson

Yes, I I know somebody since, but I don't think the whether they're actually related to this school teacher. But that's how we spell it. Yeah, yeah, I have one of my friend's daughter is married to a Grimbledeston and her two children are keen swimmers.

Keith Vernon

So when? When you came to the Harris. Did you get a bus in from Goosnargh?

Magdalene Cookson

Yes, yes, yes, yes, that was the only way really. I think we've got a a weekly ticket for school bus. There must have been something.

Keith Vernon

OK. Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

And came in on the bus and to the bus station and just walked.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Through here and obviously in the old building, we went through the steps the girls went through the steps and mostly girls that did a commercial. There was one I think there was one lad in our year.

Keith Vernon

Yeah. Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

And at that particular one cause the. There was A's and B's classes and I was in after your first year you were 1B. Being you know second year 2B and the As and Bs, you know.

Keith Vernon

OK. Yeah. Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

I think probably the head teacher, Mrs Grimbledeston, might have told my parents about it because she thought I should go. She must have thought I had the intelligence to or intellect to or the because the train I went to, what they call Mother superiors, interviews and exam. I'm not sure there were two. There was.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Lincoln Square Convent and what was the other one? I can't think of the other one there off top of my head, there were two comments in. Preston. Schools, public schools and they sent me to at least one. I might have gone to both. And I didn't impress them so I never got there. I was I can't say I'm sorry and.

Keith Vernon

OK.

Magdalene Cookson

So. Then obviously they took. The older children here when I was 11 years old.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

So I I had to be tutored in mathematics because. At the Hill Chapel, they call it Hill Chapel. School that we never really got any further than a long division.

Keith Vernon

OK.

Magdalene Cookson

With the maths. And so. My this auntie now.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Had organised her sister-in-law, who was a school teacher, so I think so. It could have been my mother. My mother was a very quiet person, really. Yes, she just got on with things and really stir anything up or doing it. She was.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Quite hard working actually, so I ended up having tuition in maths in order to pass the entrance exam for this. Yes, because I was pretty good at.

Keith Vernon

OK.

Magdalene Cookson

English from. And just came naturally to me, I think so now it's passes. So it was great.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, yeah. So what? So what was? It like coming from your. You know, kind of village school to to the Harris College Harris Institute.

Magdalene Cookson

Oh almost a culture shock, really.

Speaker

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Because and up to the. End of the war and. I'd walked. To school which were like 2 1/2 miles each way with other children.

Keith Vernon

Yeah. Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

And. After their, you know. How the parents knew whether we ever got there or not, you know, because there was no telephone.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

It was a very trusting time, I think, you know as wartime. And. Yeah. I'm thinking that I. That's quite a bit of a shock, really, because I didn't know a soul, you know anyone, and even your children.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Must have been welcomed quite nicely because I settled down alright.

Keith Vernon

Yeah. Well, were you the oldest child? Yes. OK. So you were the the first to arrive.

Magdalene Cookson

And yes I was the first in the family. I mean, I had a brother 2 years younger than I am.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

We all went through that little school. Yeah, and the four of us.

Keith Vernon

So what would? How did you find the teaching and the teachers?

Magdalene Cookson

I think I found them much the same as ones I was used to in a way. There were only two teaching in the school the same Chapel school.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Yeah, there was one of them. I think it was Mr Griffiths, the history teacher. I think some of them had. Been in the war. You know, they had served in the.

Speaker

Hmm.

Magdalene Cookson

War.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

And so, yeah, I I I enjoyed it actually. I think I probably I can't say. I was afraid of anybody or, you know, didn't like them or anything like that. No, I was alright really.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, and did you find them approachable or?

Magdalene Cookson

I am. What, in what way would you mean approachable?

Keith Vernon

I I suppose it's sort of. So what's made me think about this Magdalene is that some of the people have found that it was. At school, the teachers were very formal and very kind of standoffish, and there was a slightly different kind of relationship when they came here.

Magdalene Cookson

Ohh, I'll I'll see what you mean. Yes, it was definitely. You you have to sort of. What am I trying to say. You to behave yourself. Basically, yes, there was. It was a strict, fairly strict, yeah, because at some stage I know I ended up getting lines for not working. They're not wearing my school beret.

Keith Vernon

Yeah. Right.

Magdalene Cookson

You know and and and things like that and you end up doing lines, you have a.

Keith Vernon

Yeah. OK. Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Now I don’t know what they did with them if they even looked at them or if they threw them in the bin I don’t know? Yes, that’s so I must have been a bit of a naughty child that some stage.

Keith Vernon

I know, I know. Were were there any pranks or naughtiness?

Magdalene Cookson

Well. The only thing I can. All I can remember. I think it was Mr Collins, Mr Collins. Umm, he was the maths teacher. It wasn't naughtiness, it was just fun, really. Even played jokes on us. He had us calculating. I can remember this.

Keith Vernon

OK.

Magdalene Cookson

Something about a boat with a ladder on its side, that and you need to calculate.

Keith Vernon

Uh-huh.

Magdalene Cookson

As the water the tide came in or something, how far up the ladder? The water was going in a certain length of time you know.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

I always thought that was what I've remembered it anyway. Yeah, and. And you know, it was it was quite imposing guy, you know? Yeah, I'm. I'm not sure whether he' used to cycle here or like a Raleigh bike or some sort of.

Keith Vernon

And at. At lunchtime, did you? Is there a? Refractory or anything.

Magdalene Cookson

Yes, there was very well in the building, but there was railway was running quietly by I think at the time and.

Keith Vernon

Yeah. Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Where we had the school meals in there and then they were fairly basic. They were good, I had a good appetite I ate anything. But that was when I was children we used to chew up and blotting paper and flicking on ceiling or off it grew.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

But you sat in places like this, you know, and it smells of cabbage. It always seemed to smell of boiled cabbage.

Keith Vernon

Yeah. School dinners always do.

Magdalene Cookson

That’s the norm is it?

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

The the puddings were always something stewed with custard on, and they they put them on the window ledge. And the windows were open and and you’d get them with flecks of soot in them, little black specks. All over them, you know? Yeah.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

That's just a couple of things I remember but otherwise I don’t remember much about it.

Keith Vernon

And did just thinking about, you know, they would say about how? The boys in the tech school and the girls in the commercial school never met. Did you have separate dining times?

Magdalene Cookson

We must have done because I can't ever remember being in any boys being around. In the in the the refectory anyway, unless it was so big we were.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

You know.

Magdalene Cookson

I really can't remember seeing any of the boys, except I brought you that school sports day.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Was it useful to have that?

Keith Vernon

Yes, yeah, yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

And there were some boys taking part in that as well, so.

Keith Vernon

And yet you had a games session every week.

Magdalene Cookson

We did, yes. I've been looking on that timetable. It was. I enjoyed that really. We walked down now then.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

I have a friend, a friend, that I think I've. Mentioned in in the other. Mabel Radcliffe. She was so she got married. She lives in Blackburn now, and I've inquired about this bridge. Because I was. I think it is deleting my. The last one. That we didn't cross the Tonbridge, Keith Vernon

OK.

Magdalene Cookson

I have no memory of crossing the bridge from that time. So I got in touch with Mabel. And yeah, we walked across. Because I really probably didn't at the time, I weren't just thinking that these playing fields were the other side of the river.

Magdalene Cookson

Do you know, are they still there, are they still used?

Keith Vernon

No, no. I think most people have said that they were on the other side and you had to get changed in the art school.

Magdalene Cookson

That’s right, yes, yes. I went back. Some years ago, I think it was Jodi or someone else. I saw that it was being closed down or something. Something actually it was used as an art place then.

Keith Vernon

Yeah. Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

And Mabel with Mabel came along as well as came from.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

To have a look around it with me and it was sad, very sad to see but the old fashioned theatre with the you know, where you sat at up and you can always sit down at the table where the lecture was taking place.

Keith Vernon

Yeah. Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Taking place, you know? But we were in those. We came in somewhere along the way. Way up the steps I just got. We just got changed between the seats, really.

Keith Vernon

And did did. Did you? Did you socialise with any of your classmates outside of our classes.

Magdalene Cookson

And not that I can recall, really. No. It was a case of catch your bus home, you know, after school.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

But. It's just Mabel that I saw after school. Really, later years she was going out. On holiday and stuff I used to go meet up with her and things you know.

Keith Vernon

Yeah. I suppose if you were the only, the only person coming in.

Magdalene Cookson

On the bus from Goosnargh, there's only me on the bus from here. Really. At that time, unless there was.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

A boy out of the same year. Mentioned him in the other one, George Gornell. He he must have taken the exam and passed and went into the engineers. And I never saw him when we were here.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Uh. But he wouldn't. I don't know how he got home to be truthful. He might have been on the same bus, but because he lived, he lived at Goosnargh. He lived in the village. Yeah, he lived in the village. But I'm surprised I can remember anything really, after all this while. Yeah.

Keith Vernon

And I see you have things at the sports days whether were there any other? Sort of extracurricular activities were there any societies or anything or yeah. Yeah, yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

I can't remember any of the societies. No, we were only like 14, 15 we were probably classes us very much a child in those days.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

I didn't go to anything. I can't remember doing anyway. Have inquired about. In the last interview I mentioned, I thought we'd been taken out to a concert in a public hall. And I mean, I asked Mabel again. She said well, she says no, she says. But my parents might have said no, you're not going to that, you know, we might have had to pay or something. So I'm thinking it made my might have gone from the primary school. I don't know, oh, I I can't find any. I might ask Bunty.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

I haven't been able to get it. Well, I haven't had time to be truthful to. Inquiring after Bunty was supposed to meet up sometime, so she she she would know I thinks she would know. But the other one was. I remember going into a cotton mill. One of the cotton mills in Preston.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Yeah, so I can't figure I used to don’t think we would be going to such things to get from school.

Keith Vernon

And when? When it came to leaving. Was there any advice or guidance on getting a job or?

Magdalene Cookson

When when we were on the points of, I think the employers from the Preston must have seen if there was anybody suitable for an office job, they wanted to work in Preston and I did. Remember, they sent out with two other girls to I think it was Webbs. A company for an interview at school time and at this interview.

Keith Vernon

Right.

Magdalene Cookson

For office or I don’t know what they call them really? A clerk or something, you know? And and.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Got went there and I remember. Remember we sat in a row. Opposite this man who is interviewing us, and it's he was asking each of us questions and it looked to me and asked me a question and the girl next to me answered before I. Could. And and it did happen more than once. Did that because it was kind of looked.

Keith Vernon

Alright.

Magdalene Cookson

And I'll never actually, never said a word in that interview, really. And when I’d got out of school they had offered me the job.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

I. The teacher and I have no idea which one it was. But it was a man.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Said by the time you paid your bus fare, it must have been about, what was it? I'm thinking it wasn't very much £2.10 shillings in those days was quite a decent wage.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

You know, a very good wage, actually. Yeah. And I don't know whether this was for a pound or something a week.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

It was a very low, you know, compared to now.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

And the the teacher thought this person thought by the time I paid my bus fare.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Uh. It it wouldn't be worth my while so he he declined the job for me really. Which to be truthful, I was a proper school kid. Just.

Keith Vernon

But.

Magdalene Cookson

Obey your elders and never really would you. I don't even know if I told my parents now.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, yeah. It's interesting that that that they rang the college about the job and being.

Magdalene Cookson

Well, I think it was a good place to be educated. For the. They have a good pool of, yeah, work people from this college. To employ in your business in Preston, I think it must have been. Pardon me.

Keith Vernon

So what was your first job after leaving?

Magdalene Cookson

Well, first, first job officially made or I ended up writing letters to different companies after I left school.

Keith Vernon

Who were you working for? And who who did you work for when you? Left the college.

Magdalene Cookson

Well I've I've worked for a while in a school with me, me, godmother worked in and I must have got paid a bit of money, but just, you know, it was only a bit of money basically. And This is why I were writing letters and and I don't know whether I got any interviews.

Keith Vernon

OK. Yeah, yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

I don't think I was got anything from that. Really. But I always got a reply. They were always very good at replying to you, you know, to your letters. So, my Auntie, who was working in a school which cooked lunches, dinners for outlying schools. The little country schools like Little Chapel, where I went.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

She got me there working in the kitchen and serving meals to the school cause, so they must have not finished. Their. School year. You know. Anyway, I did that for a bit and another and I've got an interview with Askews. Which this auntie took me. And it was for a clerk, basically, I knew I could do typist and shorthand and that, you know. So I went and they asked to look at my hands.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

It was a lady and she made me. And [inaudible] fingernails or something. And and she asked if I got a package. Well, yeah that’s where the old cotton hanky.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

So they gave me the job. Ohh so testing them with handwriting first as well because it was clerk job.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

And I can't remember doing the tests, but I know I got the job because my handwriting was clear enough to read. Yeah, clear enough to read. So I worked there. That's only up the road from here and I was.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Coming on the bus again for quite a long while, to work there. And then I started cycling and I used to leave my cycle.

Keith Vernon

Yeah. Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

In the where they have the canteen, it was only a little place for the cooker where you can brew up, yeah. That was. And I did that till I got married. So it was about eight years.

Keith Vernon

OK.

Magdalene Cookson

Yeah. I went to a farm then with farming.

Keith Vernon

Yeah Ok. You know, thinking about your time at the Harris what? What did it mean to you at the time or subsequently?

Magdalene Cookson

Well, I think I've no idea that it was any different than any other school. You know it it was school to me, really. And I did enjoy it. I did particularly enjoy the gym.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Climbing ropes and going over these pommel horses and giving short arm balances and.

Keith Vernon

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

And you see young lads doing them now or in the in the Olympics doing all these fancy things, all these pommel horse things.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

It was a lady who took gym, PE. And there were window bars and. I enjoyed going in and out there and telling how to do it. It's going downhill through bottom wall, sideways and.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

It's I thought it was quite high up and then they have those balance bars and then things. I was walking along those as well. Yeah, I really enjoyed it.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, you did say that when you first came, it was. It was like a culture shock. Was it just the size and the number of people?

Magdalene Cookson

I think it was coming into Preston mainly the journey as much as anything.

Keith Vernon

Yeah. Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Because I just haven't experienced anything like it at all.

Keith Vernon

It was quite an adventure. Yeah, quite an adventure, wasn't it?

Magdalene Cookson

And yes, I was. Yeah, it was a culture shock, really. And there was a lot of people here and. And I remember seeing someone in a turban and.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Sent to the office used to. They didn't let you have so many pencils and things in those days. I think they probably it wasn’t long after the war. Was it? When you think about it, there were probably shortages.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

And I used to go to office. And they give you a new pencil or a pen. And yeah.

Keith Vernon

And did they provide the exercise books and that sort of thing?

Magdalene Cookson

Yes. Yeah. We really didn't have to pay for anything as far. As I know. OK.

Keith Vernon

What about the lunches? You.

Magdalene Cookson

Probably I can't remember. Yeah, probably have to pay something because we had paid for parents, paid for school dinners when we was at the previous school.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

And we got these meals sent out from the same place where I went to.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

To work in between afternoon and school. Yeah. Yeah, I enjoyed it here, actually, when I come to think about it. And I'd never played hockey before and we did hockey.

Keith Vernon

OK.

Magdalene Cookson

And I had all second-hand stuff from people, their parents and the girls had gone through convents and these other places were probably paid for. Yeah, you know. They were a little bit battered, but they were, yeah, I was quite good at running basically, I think I was better at running than. Yeah, yeah, I enjoyed it.

Keith Vernon

You're kind of giving you another grilling, is there? Is there anything we we haven't covered that you'd like to talk about or anything else that you've thought of?

Magdalene Cookson

Well, that I've been up to since?

Keith Vernon

No, mainly about your time.

Magdalene Cookson

Yeah. Right. We got a certificate at the end of the two years.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Called a leaving certificate and I think they were graded and I don't think I got a very great one. I was very good at typing.

Keith Vernon

Yeah. Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

I was good at art.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

And PE.

Speaker

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

And English I think well I think it was my best book. I couldn't find any of the any other paperwork like exam things or anything it must have been thrown out, you know, in my direction but. The French came in handy very much so.

Keith Vernon

And had you done any French before?

Magdalene Cookson

No, not a thing. I wouldn't have. And we did history a bit of history at primary school. Music.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

We used to have a programme on the radio for schools along I don’t know how long it went on after I left that we listen to music and identify the the piano or wind instruments or drums or whatever. That that was on the radio the teacher in primary school had it stuck on her desk.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

To listen to that was quite interesting. Yeah, but. Here, who had not been French before. So I could. Read it, write it, translate. That was the first letters.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

That's something the the French book, look at the scribble. French translated.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

I don’t know, I'd have to go back for a refresher to. So I come out, I'll do my verbs and all that kind of thing, but really couldn't speak it. My parents didn't speak French. Yeah, and nobody else knew really. Apart from Mable. And she lived in the next village, you know. Well, she lived in. She lived in Longridge at that time.

Keith Vernon

OK.

Magdalene Cookson

Yeah. So. This in the previous there is some other name that's misheard when we're talking about how well most well, all of these are all the ones I know anyway did after they had left the St Francis Hill Chapel school.

Keith Vernon

Uh-huh.

Magdalene Cookson

They were most of them went into business and and the big businesses like Forshaw and Ann Foreshaw, it's come out as Alan on the 1st, but it’s Ann.

Keith Vernon

OK. Yeah. OK.

Magdalene Cookson

Some. And they've got big business, you know, now and.

Keith Vernon

Yes to the yoghurt.

Magdalene Cookson

That, George is we're telling you about. He was a builder, he’s still about and they all made good lives, you know.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Out of a little school, but I would not have done any of this commercial stuff and it's come in really handy because we went farming when I got married and obviously we have all the bookkeeping and accounts to do and.

Keith Vernon

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Dealing with merchants.

Keith Vernon

Right. So it all came in handy.

Magdalene Cookson

It came came in very handy, yes. And the typing of course I can tell you something. For my married life anyway.

Keith Vernon

OK. Excellent.

Magdalene Cookson

When one of my daughters had left she married and she was living in not far from me and she got a computer. Separate thing with a keyboard, and so we're showing it off to her friends and showing it off to me. And she said right Mum, you have to go. So I did. Was it the lazy dog jumps over everything.

Keith Vernon

MHM, yeah. Yeah. Ohh yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Looking at the screen. Yeah, they they were all I looked round and they were.

Keith Vernon

Not seen touch typing before.

Magdalene Cookson

Because they were. Yeah. So that was fun. And also I think using those really old machines, here you are you can have a look.

Keith Vernon

Oh right, alright.

Magdalene Cookson

These things that have accumulated, they've all got my name on so I don’t know as I’ve been given them.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Lots of lots about all sorts of things.

Keith Vernon

Yes. Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

A big old Underwood.. And to teach us to type they played to do it at a steady pace.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

They played the Royal Air Force fly past March.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, yeah. Yeah. Yeah. OK.

Magdalene Cookson

And that's the speed 30 week 30 words a minutes. I think it was something like that. And then you could do a lot faster now, but and and it made your fingers strong and covered the keys so that you could not see what letter it was.

Keith Vernon

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

With little metal covers on top. OK, sorry you couldn't sneak. Yeah. For you to really know and if. You go on the wrong wrong roll.

Keith Vernon

Ohh yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

It came out in.

Keith Vernon

Yeah, yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

When I went to Askews we used to have a 10 minute break in the morning and in the afternoon and we played about on the on the somebody knew how to make pictures and pixelated really.

Keith Vernon

Oh, right, yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

A little off of that, I don't know. Any of. It, but tabulating was another thing I was good at.

Keith Vernon

Yeah.

Magdalene Cookson

Which you don't even need to think about do you, yeah. That chance, I enjoyed it. I think even. I think I used to have a mechanical mind, really.

Keith Vernon

No. OK.

Magdalene Cookson

Yeah, yeah. I'm just talking. Yeah. Tram birds erase that bit about the definite ladies tram birds, I must have done but can't remember and yet it’s stuck in Mabel’s mind walking over it and said we used to go along the railway line as well after the other side. Have you been to look?

Keith Vernon

Yeah, well, I know roughly where it is. I know that area. I don't think there are any playing fields there now.

Magdalene Cookson

And yeah. Yeah. No, I thought that he was then actually not much along. I don't know how many years, 70 ish. Yeah, so. I don't want you interested in the old books?

Keith Vernon

So is, is. Is there anything else that are are you happier with what we've talked about this time?

Magdalene Cookson

Yeah, you don't need to erase the other one. That's better.

Keith Vernon

OK.

Magdalene Cookson

That. Especially along with.