

Lindy Rowley, nee Rosalind Fox.

Born 1947 at 136 Seamer Moor Road, middle child of 7.

Parents Paddy (from Ireland) and Kathleen (from Scarborough). Family of chauffers, handsome cab and groom.

Slept 4 in a bed top to tail. Father was in the Army and a bricklayer when returned.

Never had any days off and just bread and jam "packup" for lunch.

Women were not allowed/expected to do paid work.

Monday's was washing day, Saturdays baking day.

At the weekends the family often went for a 5 mile walk, some chips and glass of cream soda was a treat. Sunday school was attended.

Clothes were passed down from each child as they grew larger. Shoes were repaired with bicycle tyre.

Mother had a few items on credit which she kept secret from the father. The credit man came by each week with his book to collect the money.

Lindy went to Falsgrave school, where the bed warehouse is now. She often got clouted for being stupid but now knows she is dyslexic.

As a child she played "gis a warnin" like hide and seek, Marbles, with large ones known as "bollies". Lindy still has scrapbooks from childhood where she kept all sorts of pictures and ephemera. They also made "bogies" (go-karts).

At 15 she started work at Hopper and Mason's in the linen department. She wanted to be a teacher or a nurse but was let down by her education.

She worked in Spawls earning £2.10 and had a very tough manager.

Lindy often did "spud bashing" (potato picking) to supplement her income.

Later the family moved to Malton where her father was the groom at the Manor and her mother a cleaner.

Lindy met her husband Tom at the Olympia ballroom age 15. The boys from the "bottom end" of town had kiss chased the girls from Edgehill into the toilets and Tom had peeked over the door!

Lindy said they didn't know the bottom end existed until she got involved with Tom. Sometimes they danced outside the Olympia as you could hear the music and didn't have to pay. Lindy's daughter now runs the successful Scarborough "Rowley's Dance Academy".

Tom's mother did not like her son going out with a girl from Edgehill and not from the "bottom end" Lindy had to work hard on the families Crab stall (see photo) and do everything she could to gain favour with the family. Eventually they got all the parents permissions to marry except Tom's mother. Tom and Lindy went ahead and placed the engagement announcement in the local paper anyway and the mother never said anymore about it. Tom and Lindy were married in St Thomas's Church with a reception at the Newcastle Packet.

Their house cost £4600 in 1968 and they let 2 bedrooms out to make income. Lindy got a job as a dinner lady at a school and worked in a sewing factory. She also worked at Boots the chemist for 12 years. Her in-laws warned her to not get into skeining the mussels for bait as it was arduous long hard work. As it was her children often complained about her smell after a day on the crab stall.

As Tom was often at sea, Lindy took night classes and is now very involved in the local community, fishing heritage, genealogy, the Women's Centre etc.

Lindy says the community aspect of the old town has changed a great deal as many people were involved in fishing. Now families move away and they don't know all the local residents.