

Mrs Hodgkinson was born in 1930. Her great grandfather was Harrison Leadley and ran a farm at the Town Farm near the old mill stream in Cloughton. Her grandfather, John Leadley was also an arable and cattle farmer. Mrs Hodgkinson lived in the cottage nearby. Her grandfather was in the navy on Dreadnoughts during WW1 near Scappa Flow. During WW2 her father gave up the farm tenancy to go into the navy and the family moved to Newby. Mrs Hodgkinson remembers the North Bay corner cafe with marvellous ice cream in silver dishes. A trip to town on abus was real treat and she remembers an orchestra trio playing music in the Rowntree's T room. The chocolate eclairs, cream horns, waffles and maple syrup were treats and the waitresses wore black and white outfits. On the farm she remembers cleaning out the milk churns and the shire horses ploughing. She was told when she was very young she used to read stories to the cows in the barn. A village courier, Dick Appleton, had a covered cart and would bring goods back to the village from town on market day

The "REM" or Remnant warehouse which later became Boyes has a marble step where the side entrance used to be and the cashiers had vacuum systems for sending money away to the accounts office. Hopwoods in St Thomas Street had a system with a basket and a pull handle. Although Mrs H lived by the sea she could not swim until she was 40. She does remember one man who swam around the Castle headland with no legs. Mrs H went to Falsgrave School and Northstead where she failed the 11+. During the war she remembers rationing, powdered eggs and milk, tinned fruit and rationed clothes and furniture. She watched bombers fly over as well as a dog fight between English and German planes. When the air raid sirens went she had to get under the big mahogany table but her granny always went under the stairs. At school they fund raised for spitfires and collected aluminium pots and pans. She had to carry an ID tag and a gas mask which she made a nice cover for the box. The family had to register with one butcher and one grocer for their rations.

Age 14 she went to the technical school at the end of valley road run by Ernest Broom. She studied French, shorthand, typing and bookkeeping. The boys did mechanics, plumbing and woodwork. At 16 she left to work at Douglas Moore Civil Engineers. Age 21 she married the man she met at a dance at the Olympia. They had to walk home to Newby in the snow when the buses had stopped. They also danced at Mrs Thornton's dance hall which was more of a room in Albermarle Crescent. She knew the Tango, Waltz and quickstep.