

Title: Hopkins,
Creators: George_and_Lil_Interview_Complete
Project: Rick & Julia Goldsmith
Tagline: Herefordshire Life Through A Lens
Films, stories and exhibitions inspired
by the photographic archive of the Derek
Evans Studio 1950s-80s
Subject: Autobiography, Hop Farming and Hop
Picking in Herefordshire, Heritage
Publisher: Catcher Media Social CIC
Tags: Hops, Derek Evans, oral history,
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Identifier: Hopkins,
Interview Date: George_and_Lil_Interview_Complete
Location: October_27_2017
Wye Valley Brewery, Stoke Lacy,
Herefordshire, UK
Source: Catcher Media Social CIC
Interviewees: George Hopkins (speaker, male) and Lil
Hopkins (speaker, female)
Interviewer: Marsha O'Mahony (speaker, female)
Camera & Sound: Richard Goldsmith (male)
Producer: Julia Goldsmith
Language: English

Type: Video
Video Format: MPEG-4
Bit rate: 19.77 mbits/s
Frame rate: 25 FPS
Aspect ratio: 16:9
Width: 1920 pixels
Height: 1080 pixels
Scan type: Progressive
Audio Format: AAC
Audio Sampling rate: 48000 Hz
Audio Bit rate: 192 kb/s
Stereo/Mono: Mono
File Size: 6.58 GB
Duration: 47 min 40 seconds

Type: Audio
Audio Format: MP3 audio
Audio Sampling rate: 44.100 kHz
Audio Bit rate: 256 kb/s

Stereo/Mono: Mono
File Size: 87.9 MB
Duration: 47 min 40 seconds

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Interview Description with: George & Lil Hopkins

Started work at 14 at Castle Frome. Had to work to support the family. Town Farm.

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Age 14 looking after Hereford cattle. Tom Bullock head cowman. Three/four years with animals. Age 20 went to Mill End to work. First year recording bushels, then did bushelling. Later traveller threatened George with a knife. Strikes. God hops on one side, then pick mot such good hops. Welsh, Midlands and Travellers went on strike. Fuggles easy to pick.

Went back to work agreed half or one penny more paid. Young people enjoying, fun. Exciting times after work Salvation Army would come and sing by the fire. Irish friend from near Waterford. He was a stockman at the Mill End. Army camp outside Ledbury. Shoddy waste from Lancashire woollen mills spread on the ground to make hops grow. Finding buttons with metal detectors.

People from Dudley to earn extra money. George's brother courted a girl from Dudley for two years. Photo of team that worked in the kiln. Key people returned most years. Bagging done with a handle. Austin 7 gearbox to press. Accident with machine. match and burnt man's stomach. Sticks of sulphur. Measured on trays. Accident when kiln was loaded. Trays with sulphur and meths. No electricity to run equipment. Machine made to fit machine. Maconal ??? Hines Malvern Machine, small. Generator was used to operate machines.

George ran the machine. Different hops required different adjustments.

17 years old worked with hops. Enjoyed the challenge. Ploughing down away from hops, piece work, stringing. West of England Herefordshire winner. Three times. Bracing, leafing, training hops to top. Tidy hop yard October/November.

2013 retired. Worked til 83/84 years old. Part time. Invited back next year.

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Cup and long service medals. 1958/9/60 George won cup. Lil did bracing quickly won cash.

1st medal 40 years at Mill End. Bronze stringing cup 10 years later.

2nd medal 50 years at Mill End.

3rd medal 60 years at Mill End

4th medal at 65 years at Mill End. Silver bar.

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Fish lady washing fish in brook. Local farmers Canon Frome Court. Shooting days workman broke his ankle. Man had sock and leave cottage./ George had tied cottage.

Lil worked on hops. She found one gold sovereign. Children picked with them. Very important to record the history of the past. Enjoyable time. Photos of cup and medals.