

Voices of Volunteering: 75 Years of Citizenship and Service

Interview Transcript

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Title: Mrs

Interviewee's Forenames: Joan M

Gender: F

Volunteer/Employee Roles and Dates:

Volunteer 1972-2012 Holmfirth West Yorkshire

Meals on Wheels Organiser

Wakefield Prison Canteen

Toy Library Organiser

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Interviewer's Notes: Joan M Beck (JMB) reminisces about her time with WRVS in Holmfirth, West Yorkshire. She talks about how she first started with Meals-on-Wheels (MOW) in 1972 and then became the Local Meals-On-Wheels organiser in 1984. JMB also mentions the other work she became involved with during her time with WRVS including Wakefield Prison Canteen, Emergency Services (ES) and Holmfirth Toy Library. JMB also comments on receiving her MBE in 1999 for her WRVS work. She concludes with her thoughts on Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) today, what its future might be and her most treasured memory of her time with WRVS.

[Jennifer Hunt]: This is Jennifer Hunt with Joan Beck on the seventh of August 2014 at her home in Holmfirth, Yorkshire. Joan would you just like to introduce yourself?

[Joan Beck]: I've been a very busy lady in my life actually, how I managed to work I don't know but I did.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: When I, I had to retire in the days, in the old days we had to retire when we got married you know. I was a nurse. We had to retire. We were not allowed to work as a married woman in those days, which was a bit hard, so we had to give up, and that was when I moved here and got involved with WRVS. Several doctors have said why haven't I gone back to work and I said 'I really haven't got time now I'm doing WRVS'.

[JH]: [Laughing]

[JB]: I know it's WVS, W whatever.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: But never mind.

[JH]: And what did you know about WRVS before you joined as a, a member?

[JB]: I met my friend who's now in France and she said 'Come and help me with Meals-on-Wheels', that's how I started.

[JH]: Mm.

[JB]: And after that I did it, well I got to be the organiser when she left and I had five, five rounds you know which was quite a lot of people you know.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: Like you I was doing a lot of office work then so I was working.

[JH]: And before you met your friend through and came across WRVS had you you know before or...?

[JB]: No, I'd never heard anything about them or anything but have since, have since joining of course I've got various booklets and what have you, you know I've got the, the green book which you'll know about which goes back a long time till Lady Reading's day. Funnily enough she mentions my friend in France, mentioned Mrs Reading this week. She's a Lady anyway now isn't she, Lady Reading, yes. Anything more?

[JH]: And when you started volunteering in 1972 what, apart from sort of meeting through your friend did you have any other reasons for wanting to join WRVS?

[JB]: No just caring, just the caring nature really. I mean I, I, it was just my caring nature I suppose. Having been a nurse you see it was born in me really you know. But I, I wouldn't want to go back to nursing although I must say with this television at the moment with all the First World War I don't know how they managed in those days. They were on about the sphagnum moss yesterday being used for dressings and things. Well I knew that actually because it came up in conversation somewhere but I don't know how they managed, I don't really with all that mud and slush. [Coughs] Mm.

[JH]: And what were your earliest memories WRVS?

[JB]: Primarily Meals-on-Wheels. I must have been to every, every, in the holiday times we used to, the schools closed so we had to find somewhere else to pick up the meals, and originally we started

the meals at Washpit Mill here and they were, gosh how much were they? Seventy, seventy, no, they can't have been. They were something like seven and sixpence I think or something at that time. Ad I think I've been to every kitchen, school kitchen in the area in the holidays when the schools were not there you know picking up Meals-on-Wheels. And it entailed telling all the drivers that they'd have to go somewhere different for meals, and yes, I had a lot of drivers. I must, it, they were all on monthly rotas so they knew what they were doing.

[00:05:00]

[JH]: Mm.

[JB]: And everybody mucked, everybody worked, nobody minded, they just did it. You see they, they have trouble in getting people to do things today. Nobody wants to do a committee job these days for anything they join, because they just don't want to join and get involved somehow. Am I still on that thing?

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: Oh.

[JH]: And what was your role in Meals-on-Wheels?

[JB]: Well, when, when Bab went I had to go there as local organiser, and then of course I got in to doing the Meals-on-Wheels rotas. As I said I had five rotas. On each rota had eight, eight, eight different people every, every month to help.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: But they all did it. It was no hardship they just did it. Oh yes, I had some very good friends.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: Mm, they all became friends of course eventually.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: Yes.

[JH]: And how were the meals delivered?

[JB]: How, how they were delivered?

[JH]: Mm, mm. Did you use hot blocks or...?

[JB]: Yes we had hot blocks originally. When we picked them up from Washpit Mill, yes they were charcoal burners in the bottom believe it, you, you probably know all this actually.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: But yes they had a little tray with charcoal in it. How we never had fires in the back of our cars I will never know. [laughing] And they were all delivered individually of course you know. And we used to do about twenty meals per round, which is a lot of meals, they can't get people to do it today. I have one meal delivered by the group that does it here.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: But they only do it Fridays. So it's some change.

[JH]: Yes. And when you were doing Meals-on-Wheels did they start delivering frozen meals or was it always a hot, a hot meal?

[JB]: A hot, they were hot, yes.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: Yes. They used to come in metal trays.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: Meal and a sweet in the same tray, yes. And of course the cost had gone up and to be quite honest I can't remember what it was eventually but it was something more than I'm paying now.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: Less than I'm paying now you know, yes. Times change. Do you want some more tea?

[JH]: No, I've got, I've still got some. Mm, and who, can you tell me about the people you were delivering the meals to?

[JB]: [Pause] They were all, all older than me in those days. Probably are dead now most of them you know. Mm, I still meet some of them that are still mobile enough to get out like I do. Mm, I'm sure the youngest must have been well over seventy I delivered to. So therefore it was a smaller number of people who were getting Meals-on-Wheels although we were delivering more.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: They used to have four a week you see in those days.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: Which is... And they never complained, never complained. Yes, they did they complained about chips, they didn't like chips in their, [laughing] they didn't like chips in their meals. [pause]

[JH]: And when you first started your friend, you said your friend was responsible for...

[JB]: Sorry?

[JH]: When you first started with Meals-on-Wheels you said your friend was responsible for organising it and then you became the organiser?

[JB]: Yes.

[JH]: Did you change anything about it?

[JB] No, no, it just went on. In fact it got busier because I, I got these route, other routes going in the neighbourhood.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: And, and people just did it you know, you rang them up and said could they do and they did. Very good but they're not so keen today. [coughing]

[00:10:00]

[JH]: And can you tell me about the volunteers who delivered the meals?

[JB]: Who delivered them?

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: Anybody who had a free, free couple of hours to spend you know. The meals used to go out from eleven till one about, over, over the lunchtime period.

[JH]: Mm.

[JH]: And they used to stick to their rotas so that everybody knew what when the meals were coming.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: Which I used to insist actually because if you start dotting them about they never know when they're going to get a meal. Ah, ha. [pause]

[JH]: And did you have a, did you work from the local office at that time?

[JB]: My house.

[JH]: From your house?

[JB]: Originally we used to use the office in the Methodist church, [pause] and that worked very well for years, we used to have, in fact I've still got the, the thing that I, the file. And you don't want a new file do you for your office?

[JH]: [Laughing]

[JB]: You can take it if you want. [laughing] Yes we used that until the office become, became modernised as it is now.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: But we gave up before, before the Methodists closed it actually. I can't remember how, how long before. But, yes I can't remember that point you'll have to think about that one.

[JH]: Yes. And you were, you were organiser from about, about 1984. Was, did anything else change about Meals-on-Wheels in the area?

[JB]: No, apart from the fact that Kirklees suddenly stopped paying our expenses. Because they used to pay, pay a mileage from the house to when we got back. Which was very generous. I mean it wasn't, it wasn't vastly expensive in those days because petrol wasn't so expensive.

[JH]: No.

[JB]: You know but, we, yes. Kirklees just decided I think they'd had enough and they just gave up, which I felt at the time was wrong.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: Because now it's become necessary. I mean although there is a round going round now.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: I told you I'm having a meal on a Friday. They only deliver on a Friday and they're having a hard job getting the number of people to deliver the meals.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: And not enough people saying they will have the meals. But you see I'm sure there are lots of people who could.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: But they don't. Does that answer your question?

[JH]: Mm, yes.

[JB]: Oh, yes.

[JH]: And is there anything else you would like to share about your time with Meals-on-Wheels and WRVS?

[JB]: Oh what a lovely time I've had. [laughing] I've enjoyed doing it. I mean although it's been a long time.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: Because it was, it was sort of from Seventy-one I think I joined or Seventy-two. And I haven't, as I told you I haven't really retired so you better put me down as having retired.

[JH]: [Laughing]. And you also worked in Wakefield Prison with WRVS.

[JB]: Yes, yes, yes.

[JH]: What was your role in the prison?

[JB]: Oh just one of the, one of the people who went at the visitors time.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: You know to deliver, we only did tea and coffee and biscuits, didn't even make sandwiches, they were always asking us 'Why can't we have sandwiches' you know. But we were delivering, we only saw the visitors.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: The, the prisoners were in, in their rooms you know at tables and things. But I think it's all a bit different today. I don't know who they have it doing now because I certainly don't think my lot don't do it any more.

[JH]: No.

[JB]: But I even enjoyed going to the prison actually.

[00:15:00]

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: I hated the security of course, but it's all you know all goes by the board, you get used to that you know, get used to that. But yes.

[JH]: And why did you decide to help out at the canteen in the prison?

[JB]: Why did I?

[JH]: Decide to help at the prison?

[JB]: Oh because somebody wanted some help doing it.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: Mm, I've forgotten the original organiser's name virtually. I think it was the prison that must have phoned us originally. [coughing] Yes, it must have been the prison that rang and said as an organisation would we like to help?

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: There were other people who helped. There was some church or other in Wakefield involved as well and they, they used to do some of the visiting. It was only one day a week I think, seem to think. No it was less than that. I know it was very little compared with what we were doing Meals-on-Wheels and things you know. [pause]

[JH]: And did you have to wear uniform to go in to prison, no?

[JB]: No, we went as we were, but we always put on a WRVS pinny. [laughing]

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: Mind you I'll give you those pinnies if you want some.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: I put out some uniform actually if you want to take it.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: Oh yes, we put our pinnies on to show you know what we were doing.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: That we were official, yes. But that's all.

[JH]: And did you wear uniform for other WRVS occasions?

[JB]: You always could, yes. I never did except on official occasions. I mean I used to have a, a jacket and skirt and shirts and the lot.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: The lot has gone actually apart from what I'm going to give you which has got, I don't like to get rid of the WRVS uniform into the, into the bin.

[JH]: No.

[JB]: So I'll give you those but I've only kept the best ones you know, another suit. I've given you a hat and a scarf you know which, which I thought you mustn't have uniform store of some sort.

[coughing]

[JH]: Oh yes.

[JB]: I mean I know they did in the old days. I mean we used to do, we used to have a uniform store anyway here in Huddersfield. I can't remember when that stopped either. It was too, a long time ago. But what else can I tell you? Not else, nothing else.

[JH]: How did you feel about volunteering at the prison?

[JB]: I loved doing it. It was, never anything I didn't like about it actually, none at all. [pause] See I wrote it all out for you. God what have I got that in there for? [pause] Mm, oh I used to do where Justine is round here. I did Meals-on-Wheels in Meltham as well.

[JH]: Mm.

[JB]: I'd forgotten that. And I was also emergency trained like they still are today I believe.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: [Pause]

[JH]: And what sort of training were you doing with emergency services?

[JB]: Oh glory be I can't remember, you used to have to do things like map reading.

[JH]: Oh right.

[JB]: Believe it or not. [pause] Yes, that's about all that lot, yes. Ah, yes, map reading and making meals, making teas you know in these great big urns.

[JH]: Mm

[JB]: Which I expect you've got in the office at some time or other.

[00:20:00]

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: [Laughing]

[JH]: Got Sawyer boilers and everything.

[JB]: You've what?

[JH]: Got a Sawyer boiler as well.

[JB]: Oh yes, oh going back a long time, yes, yes, that's true.

[JH]: And did you attend any emergencies?

[JB]: Yes, we used to attend, I've been to an emergency in Wakefield at some time or other. We covered quite a big area here really. We used to help, help other emergency services. [coughing] We were always feeding the police, always feeding the police.

[JH]: Mm. And were there any exercises you can tell me about that you did for emergency services?

[JB]: I can't individually tell you, we only did a very few actually. Some of the younger girls used to go on more times than I did. Although I must say I wasn't that decrepit in those days, [laughing] but yes there used to be other people who went on. It was a question of who was available to go. If, if you called people all on the call, on the call out system there were only a certain number of people who could always come. You know they'd either be doing something or going somewhere or something so they couldn't always come. But [pause] that's about enough of me I think that's what you need. I don't know if you've got some more questions left.

[JH]: Mm. We also, you were helping out at the toy library, can you tell me about your first role there?

[JB]: Yes, I was organiser from the first.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: There were about twelve or thirteen or, twelve or so, twelve of us I think, and I was just one of the organisers you know. But Pat did a lot from, from the writing point when she wrote off to people asking for money because we had to raise money for, for the toys.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: And we were, we were very well supported actually. Funnily enough I met somebody yesterday with her grandchildren [coughing] and she said 'We used to come to you at the toy library', she said you know. That was a long time ago.

[JH]: Yes. And...

[JB]: Yes, but it ran for I think twenty-one years.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: If I remember rightly. And then it died, it died literally.

[JH]: Mm.

[JB]: People just stopped coming and I think it was, I don't know whether it was television or what but people just didn't want to come and borrow toys.

[JH]: Mm.

[JB]: I've no idea why.

[JH]: What sort of toys were you providing?

[JB]: Oh all sorts. Small toys and also sit on rockers. You know the, used to have a rocker. I had it here not so long ago because I had it here for my grandchildren. Yes, but it was, we had a lot of nice toys. Had cars, you know the toys today...

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: They had the big orange cars.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: It was a good selection of toys, yes.

[JH]: And was the toy library open every day or once a week?

[JB]: Do you know I can't remember. I think it was one day a week.

[JH]: Mm.

[JB]: It was a Thursday I think because that happened to be market day here, and we decided that if people were going to the market they'd just go up for the toy library. We were able to have The Phoenix Youth Club, which we had to pay for of course, and all the toys had to be put out and then taken away and packed in our cars. We used to have several good people who had, who would take the toys.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: You know when they were not being used.

[00:25:00]

But they were stored of course.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: But it was only on a Thursday, market day. [pause] But the toys were very good quality ones. I mean we, we even had tunnels. Do you remember tunnels?

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: Dogs go through them on these activity dogs I've seen on television.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: Going through the tunnel and up and about on the flags and things you know, yes. Yes you see dogs doing all the things that the kids used to do.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: Right, anything more?

[JH]: And the, what about the building where you had the toy library, how would you describe it?

[JB]: It was The Phoenix Youth Club.

[JH]: Mm.

[JB]: It was a youth club and we used to hire, hire. Used to hire upstairs and downstairs. There were some cupboards that we could store the small toys in but all the big toys had to go in to people's cellars and things. That was quite a chore I tell you. I was fit in those days. Packing my car up to the gunwales with slides and...

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: Rockers and, yes, yes, that was the lot.

[JH]: And who was allowed to use the toy library?

[JB]: Who?

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: They just arrived at the door and registered, and however many kids they came. I mean there were, there were some families with three kids used to come you know. And we had toys for the disabled as well. I mean kids couldn't, perhaps kids couldn't read and that sort of thing, we used to accommodate them all. And all, all these companies had to be written to and they were very good about supplying money, that's what we needed. And of course when we packed up we had to find somewhere for the money to go you know.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: That was a problem. Nobody wanted it you see.

[JH]: No.

[JB]: They hadn't give... They haven't, even and they gave it to us but they didn't want it when we packed up. Never mind, we found a good home for it all and that was...

[JH]: And you also you told Bill Owen used to come and visit the toy library as well?

[JB]: He was a, a, oh what did we call it? An associate member of the toy library. Yes, he only came once, yes, only came once. But you know if we were doing a fund raising I think I probably sent you the photograph.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: Probably with Bill Owen on. Well he only came once when we were having a... That was in the days when we needed fund raising,.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: [Pause] He, he was a nice man. Great pity when he died, yes. His, his son was never a good replacement. Don't put that on.

[JH]: No, I won't.

[JB]: [Laughing] [Pause].

[JH]: And how did you feel when the toy library closed?

[JB]: Upset really because it was twenty or twenty-one years I think we'd been going and therefore there was a section of children that we'd looked after.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: I mean the mothers were there, you know they didn't come without the, without, they didn't leave the children.

[JH]: No.

[JB]: But I felt sorry that it had to, it had to close.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: But if people don't come through the door then you can't expect them to come.

[JH]: No.

[JB]: So...

[JH]: And did you provide any other children's services in the area?

[JB]: No, no, no. No there was nowhere else. Once, once the... I think actually looking back on it it must have been something to do with the age of the children that was going to school.

[JH]: Mm.

[00:30:00]

[JB]: You know they, the age is much less than it used to be. So yes, the, the, I mean they go to school now at four don't they?

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: Or before, three, [laughing] or three and a half or something rather than four now.

[JH]: Mm.

[JB]: So that I think that was probably the reason.

[JH]: And also you received a MBE for your work in Holmfirth and with WRVS in 1999. How did you feel when you received it?

[JB]: I was delighted actually. [coughing] It's a bit of a long story actually but my husband and I were invited down to the garden party which happened to be the same year I got invited to the garden party. And because it was an effort to get my husband anywhere because he was, it was all he could do was to manage without a wheelchair he did but he said 'I can't go down there', and when we got the invitation to go down and collect the MBE I'd said 'Well, we can always have...' Kirklees were very generous. They gave me a lunch.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: For forty of the people I'd worked with. [coughing] So I selected someone off each of the routes that I'd worked with you know.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: And yes, we had a very nice three, three course lunch, mm. And the Lord Mayor at the time, Lord Lieutenant.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: He presented it to me not the Queen, but I mean it didn't make any difference.

[JH]: No.

[JB]: I mean it was probably a lot less posh if you know what I mean. [coughing] But he was very nice. He and his wife came, of course, they had to be invited like everybody else. But yes it was a, well I enjoyed it. It was a nice day for me anyway, yes.

[JH]: Yes. And was there a lot of secrecy around being given your MBE before?

[JB]: Oh yes, I mean nobody was told, we were not allowed to say anything to... Then Kirklees wrote and said 'As you're not going down would you like to have the town hall'? Which I was delighted actually.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: I'd never been inside a big town hall before you know, and it was very nice, posh hat, posh dress, you know dressing up.

[JH]: And was all, because it was for your community work, was all your community work done through WRVS?

[JB]: Sorry missed it?

[JH]: Was all your community work done through WRVS?

[JB]: Oh yes. Well not really no I did other things. I worked with the police for years with the cycling, teaching the children to cycle before they went to school. That was about the only thing outside WRVS but all the other things were, were, were con... Really I mean I, I kept a list of things I did here.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: [Coughing] I'm sorry about my cough but...

[JH]: No, it's okay.

[JB]: I'm suffering with, because of the heat that we've had this year [pause] I've got asthma or something and it makes me cough. [pause] And of course when I had, I had two knee operations before I had my brain tumour but that was all. Yes, five routes, yes. I reckon I did my bit put it that way.

[JH]: Mm, mm, yes. And were you still, well you were probably still active but to be honest when they changed to a charity in 1992 and there was all started closing offices and various different things. What can you tell me about your experiences at that time?

[00:35:00]

[JB]: I really didn't notice any difference.

[JH]: No.

[JB]: I think probably whenever you say 1992 was it?

[JH]: Mm.

[JB]: Was it really as late as that?

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: Oh I didn't realise it's as late as that. I, I haven't got it on there you see I must have missed that. I don't think it made any difference to me at all. It just meant you know the money was going to hopefully to WRVS.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: Whether they made good use of it in those days I'm not sure. Would you like another cup of tea?

[JH]: No, I'm fine with this for the minute. And sort of over the time you've been in the organisation since 1972...?

[JB]: Mm.

[JH]: What do you think is the biggest change you've experienced?

[JB]: The change is what's happened to WRVS. I mean that people are just not in, involved are they, not getting involved are they?

[JH]: Some people are.

[JB]: Not many though I bet.

[JH]: No.

[JB]: I mean I, I personally probably think that most of the, your helpers have been in it a long time and they just go on.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: If it hadn't been for me ending up needing a brain tumour I'd probably should have gone on a bit longer but I didn't I gave up.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: I, I think the main, the main reason is people don't want to get involved with anything.

[JH]: No.

[JB]: Whatever. I mean I know before, while I was doing WRVS I was also running a business and professional women's organisation, and [pause] getting people to do things like secretary and, and treasurer and even to be chairman was an awful job getting someone to do it. Anyway that packed up too you see so you know that didn't last long either. But so yes I've, I've had a very busy life and I've been, I've been very lucky with what I have to do, or what I've had to do you know. I've enjoyed it mind you.

[JH]: Mm, mm. And where would you say that Royal Voluntary Service as it is now place in society is today?

[JB]: I'm going to be very cheeky now. Seeing, seeing as how I've never had, or not a very long time any, anything sent to me personally from WRVS. I mean there's that *Heritage* magazine isn't there?

[JH]: That has stopped for the minute.

[JB]: It's stopped?

[JH]: For the, for now it's, the *Heritage* magazine has stopped.

[JB]: That's interesting, well that's why I haven't been having it. [coughing] But I think it's just that people don't want to volunteer...

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB] ... for anything. I went to a meeting in Holmfirth the U3A organisation.

[JH]: Mm, yes.

[JB]: They're organising one in the Holmfirth area and there were dozens of people turned up to get involved with this and there were people signing on the dotted line that's going to be joining as members but there was never anything mentioned about how much it was going to cost, which I thought was a, was a mistake.

[JH]: Mm.

[JB]: They said that if you wanted to organise something you could have it in your own home you know but it doesn't work like that.

[JH]: No.

[JB]: It doesn't work like that. Anyway that's fine, yes.

[JH]: Yes.

[JB]: And so I didn't join U3A.

[JH]: No. And what do you think is the future for Royal Voluntary Service?

[JB]: Well, if it's people like you who have to go round and see people I think it's going to go on.

[JH]: **Mm, mm.**

[JB]: But if people, if people don't, I mean you say you enjoy doing it, obviously you do or you wouldn't do it but...

[00:40:00]

I'm sorry. [coughing] Yes, it's this blooming chest of mine. If people don't volunteer to do things like you're doing I'm afraid it will die.

[JH]: **Mm, mm.**

[JB]: And that would be a great mistake, great mistake.

[JH]: **And is there anything else you'd like to share about your time with The RVS?**

[JB]: Except that I told you I've enjoyed doing it and I wouldn't have missed a minute.

[JH]: **No.**

[JB]: A minute of it. It's been very enjoyable and I mean I was the caring type of person who, who would volunteer. Yes a great pity, great pity, a great pity. Sorry, I'm going to have to sneeze.

[JH]: That's okay.

[JB]: [Sneezing] Oh. [pause].

[JH]: And from all the stories and memories you have of your time in The WRVS what's, what would you say is your favourite or most treasured?

[JB]: Seeing the old folks eat their meals. [laughing] Because they did enjoy them, they just looked forward to you going. Whether they had cats or dogs or whatever you know they, they really enjoyed seeing, seeing you.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: And you taking an interest in them, mm.

[JH]: And did you find there was more of a social element to it then than there is now?

[JB]: Oh the people I've worked with we all, we're, we're, a lot of people are still friends you know.

[JH]: Mm, mm.

[JB]: A lot of course, of course, a lot of them are older than me and just don't get out. I mean at least I can get out a bit.

[JH]: **Mm, mm.**

[JB]: But I don't drive any more and that's cut down my access to going anywhere you know.

[JH]: **Yes.**

[JB]: Pity but never mind, it's what happens when you get older, yes.

[JH]: **Well, thank you for speaking to me today Joan.**

[JB]: That's alright but I'm, I'm sorry I'm, that thing frightens me to death.

[JH]: **That's alright. This will make a really good contribution to our Voices of Volunteering project.**

[End of Interview 00:42:43]