

LLEISIAU O LAWR Y FFATRI / VOICES FROM THE FACTORY FLOOR

Pilkingtons, St Asaph (1964 - 1971)

Interviewee: Christine Jane Jones
Date of Birth: 3. 11. 1943
Date of interview: 13: 06: 2014
Interviewer: M. Grant on behalf of the Women's Archive of Wales

Women in Light Industries

1. Background:

Tell us a little about your background: where you were born; your father and mother, if they worked...

I was born in Denbigh, Denbigh Infirmary, but my parents lived in Prestatyn. My father's from South Wales, my mother's from Prestatyn and Ffynnongroyw. Mostly lived there, but for a while lived in the Waun, St Asaph, when I was small and the rest of the time in Prestatyn.

Did you go to school there?

No, I didn't actually. I went to several primary schools. I started in Towyn, (my parents lived in Rhyl then) and I had a year in Towyn. Then I had a year in a school in Prestatyn and then we went to live in the Waun and I went to Rhualt Primary School. From then on, I passed my eleven plus, but I also passed the entrance exams for Howells and I went there for two years. Then I had to leave because my health wasn't so good, and I went to Rhyl Grammar School for the rest of my secondary education.

Have you got brothers and sisters?

Yes, I've one sister. She lives in St Asaph, she's younger than me – a thirteen year gap between us.

And does she work?

She's just finished work, actually. She worked for Frith the carpet people in Bodelwyddan, she's just retired.

How old were you when you left school?

I left when I was seventeen. I didn't finish my education. I did a year a year in the sixth form and about three weeks of the second year sixth, I was heading for my 'A' levels. But I had very bad asthma at the time, and I went to live in Switzerland for eighteen months, in an asthma sanatorium. Because of that I didn't pass any of my school exams. I had 'O' levels but no 'A' levels, so college was out of the question.

My mother knew the sister in charge of the surgery in Pilkingtons and she got me an application form and the rest was history, pretty much.

I went for an interview and I got the job and I went to work in their Sales Services Department.

How did you feel about leaving school at that age?

It happened so quickly: within three weeks of being told I was going, I went. So I didn't have much time to think about it. I'd left school, yes, but it didn't occur to me at the time that it was a bit of a nuisance in terms of future exams and college and employment. I just went and enjoyed it while I was there. I learnt languages, I always enjoyed French and German, and the sanatorium was run by Dutch people, so I learnt a bit of Dutch while I was there. But when I came home, I was pretty much on the scrap heap, because I was nineteen, nearly twenty and not fit for much without more education.

Is that how you felt?

No, I didn't feel that way but it was what happened, that was the situation.

I was supposed to go on a Government Rehabilitation Scheme, down in Egham in Surrey, but I was quite ill and I ended up at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Rhyl for a while, with my asthma. So that went by the board, so I had nothing really to fall back on. That's where Pilkintons came in.

[4']

2. Work

So you ended up going to the local factory, and it was a big factory wasn't it?

Yes, the total workforce eventually was about a thousand people. It was a big employer locally, everybody worked there. My husband had worked there since he left school.

This was your first job?

Yes, my first and my only job for a good few years. I've worked at other places since, but my first job was at Pilkingtons.

When was that?

1964.

Did you want to work there?

It was a job. I didn't really think too much about it, to be perfectly honest. I'd applied for a couple of jobs in London, my mother had grand ideas for me, but with my health as it was, she didn't really want me to be that far away from home. And Pilkingtons was a big employer around here. So it seemed natural to have a go. I wasn't trained for anything, so anything I did do had to be fairly straightforward. So, that's where I went.

Did you know other people who worked there?

I knew the sister in the surgery. I knew a couple of girls who worked in the typing pool who I'd known locally. One of them I went to school with in Howells, and I'd been to dancing classes with another one.

In your interview was that straightforward, or any test...?

No tests, it was just a straightforward interview. They didn't get technical like they do nowadays. I honestly have not much memory of it.

The factory, can you tell us what the factory made?

They made optical glass, lenses and things that they used in industry. I don't know much about the detail, but I know they produced and all sorts of lenses and different things like that.

What was your exact job, your role there?

I was a clerk in the Sales Services Department. It was filing, doing a bit of typing. Very uninspired typing, because I wasn't very good at it. A general dog's body if you like. I used to take forms to different departments and copy things and filing, that sort of thing. It was aiding the sales reps. There was a Sales Department attached to our department and we looked after all their paperwork and the orders they were dealing with and things like that.

How did you feel about working there?

It was all right, I quite enjoyed it. I had nothing to compare it to. It was a pleasant atmosphere; the people I worked with were ok. I just got on and did it.

How did other local people view working in a factory?

I think they enjoyed it, it was a nice place to work, in terms that the management were good and the working conditions were good. There were so many people locally who worked there.

Without it the local area would really have been on the skids, I think. Thank goodness for Pilkingtons!

So working there would have had some status in the area?

I think so, yes. I don't quite know how you categorise status, but yes, you knew you had a good job and a secure job. They paid good wages and they didn't make people redundant very often not in the first few years. It opened in 1958, but until it closed –there were a lot of redundancies at the end. But then, that was the height of production when I was there.

[8' 30'']

3. Tell us about the job ...

Can you remember your first day at work?

I can remember generally, yes, but I can't remember specifics. I can remember going there. I can remember what I wore...

What were your first impressions?

I'd never been in an office atmosphere before, so I didn't really know what to expect. They sat me at a desk, they gave me a typewriter, everyone seemed quite friendly, and I just got settled in.

Can you describe a working day?

I would do some typing; I would deliver documents to the shop floor, to various departments – wherever I was asked to go by my boss; I would do filing. That's pretty much it, I think. It wasn't a complicated job, a little bit of everything.

Did you enjoy the work?

Yes, I did quite.

What did you enjoy?

I don't know. There must have been about six or eight of us in the department, and they were fairly easygoing, as long as we did the work obviously. The atmosphere was pleasant, so it made it easier to do the job.

[10'] *Did you change jobs at all while you were at the factory?*

Yes, I went to work for the Personnel Officer. They built the new factory across the road, Pilkingtons – Perkin Elmer in those days (I don't know what it is these days). I worked for a gentleman called Derek Denton (who's now dead). I was his general clerk, he also had a secretary. When they built the new factory we moved into offices over there. I was going between the two factories on a daily basis, taking documents back and forth. That was after I got married.

And Pilkin Elmer was a subsidiary...?

Yes, they teamed up with an American firm, Perkin Elmer. I'm not sure what they made, but they made a lot of stuff for the military. So it was all MOD and hush hush. We were just the Personnel Department, hiring and firing.

How did you get that role?

I applied for it – internal application. Felt like a change and got moved to Personnel.

And was that a good move?

I think so, it was interesting. I didn't think in terms of advancement, it was just a change, something a bit more structured, not quite so general, I suppose.

Do you know how many women worked in the factory?

There must have been about a hundred, I would think.

Out of how many would that have been?

What do you mean, factory – shop floor? I suppose there would have been a hundred altogether, but I'm really not sure about the factory. In the packing department you would have women, in other departments I'm not sure. But in the offices that dealt with the shop floor, there were women there, in production control and things like that ... fifty at least in that part and probably more in that part, and women in the offices obviously, typists and secretaries were there and the wages department.

And the men, were they more on the shop floor?

Yes, the sales reps were all men, and the managers, but most of the men were on the shop floor.

Do you know if the number of people changed at all during your period in the factory?

Over time, it started to go down towards the time when I left, but I couldn't be sure.

Were there skilled / unskilled jobs there?

Yes, there had labourers and they had people who were particularly skilled in certain things.

How did they get the skills?

They trained on the job because nobody had ever had a factory like that in North Wales before. So it was all starting from scratch I imagine. They did import people from other Pilkington factories, a lot of them came from St Helen's, some came from Birmingham – they had a Triplex factory there. A few came up from London. Different skills from different places.

Is that to teach the processes?

Yes, and some to work permanently at St Asaph, I think they were given the choices.

Could people move from unskilled to skilled jobs?

I think so, if they were given the necessary skills. They had to find out if they had an aptitude for it, I suppose, and if they did, I expect they were given the chance to do it.

Were there married women working in the industry?

Yes.

Did they do the same jobs as the unmarried workers?

Yes, I don't think there was any differentiation.

Were there any working mothers on the staff?

[15'] I couldn't tell you the ins and outs of the women I worked with. Most of us were single; the secretaries and clerks, they were all young. I worked there after I was married. But I don't know about children. I presume some of them must have had kids already. Then I expect, most of them didn't, because it wasn't the norm so much then... for married women to work, with children. Not like it is today. It's practically a necessity these days, isn't it?

[15' 30''] *Were you encouraged to go to night school to further your education or day release / go on other courses?*

I wasn't personally, no. But you could have done, obviously. I don't know anyone who did.

[15' 40'']

4. Wages

Can you remember how much you were paid?

I can remember what my finishing salary was, but I...

[16'] *Paid per week?*

No, per month – classed as 'salary' not 'wages' – there's a subtle distinction. If you worked in the offices you got a salary, if you worked on the shop floor you got wages.

How were you paid?

Straight into the bank.

Same for shop floor?

Again I couldn't tell you. I don't know.

Did you have any pay rise?

Yes, we did, but I have no memory of them. Except my finishing salary, which was just about a thousand pounds a year.

In...?

1964, no, 1971; '64 I started, '71 I finished. And that's when I had the rise to bring me up to just about a thousand pounds a year. I didn't have much time to take advantage of it though, that was the trouble.

What did you spend your wage packet on?

When I first started, it was the first time I'd ever had a job so it was MONEY and I went out and bought myself a record player. My father nearly killed me. Then I had driving lessons and I suppose I saved some as well. I really can't remember. I suppose then it was an awful lot of money, because I'd never had a regular wage.

Did you have to share your wages with your family?

I paid my mother housekeeping, keep you called it then.

Were there any perks for working in the factory?

Perks in what way? The recreation club and things like that, lots of societies that you could join. We had Christmas parties and things like that. John, my husband, he played cricket; I played tennis and played at Prestatyn. Then I started going to watch cricket, and that's about it as far as I'm concerned, I didn't play any other sport. We socialised a lot between the different sports sections.

Would you know if there was any pilfering within the factory?

I really don't know. I never heard of any. It's possible I suppose, there is in a lot of places, Pilks no, I couldn't tell you.

...The stuff they made wasn't anything that you could do anything with, except to the people who wanted to buy it – the customers. They had a specific need and it was a very specific product. So, no, I don't think there would have been a lot.

[19' 50'']

5. Trade Unionism

Were there any unions in the factory?

There were for the factory workers but not for the office workers. They had a Staff Council which was operated, I believe, by the management, just to deal with any dispute within the staff, but nothing in the trade union way, no.

Did you feel the workers were treated fairly?

Yes, I did. I never heard of any particular disputes. I think it was pretty good on the whole.

There were never any strikes...?

No, not that I know of.

[20' 30'']

6. Conditions:

Did you have to wear a uniform for work?

No, just your ordinary clothes.

Did people on the shop floor wear a uniform?

Not a uniform, but the people in packing department wore long brown coats. The more technical people wore white coats, and that's pretty much it. They wore protective clothing: goggles and gloves and overalls, aprons, things like that for all the dangerous bits, but nothing else that I'm aware of.

What part of the work was dangerous?

Well, they had furnaces where the glass was made. The whole process happened in the factory from the raw materials to the finished article. The furnaces would be a really hot and dangerous place to work, and the mixtures that they put into the furnaces were also dangerous. Chemicals – silicon and things like that – you needed to be protected from that lot.

So people could sustain injuries...?

They could, if they weren't careful.

Were there particular injuries associated with the work?

I suppose the most common one would be a burn or something like that. If they were wearing all their protective clothing they should have been fairly safe, I suppose. I can't remember specific incidents.

Were there any accidents?

None that I can remember, but I'm sure there must have been a few. Not major accidents, but some.

Can you remember any of the rules and regulations you had to obey?

Not sit around for too long doing nothing, or go to the loo too often. It wasn't lax, but it was quite relaxed in terms of what you could and what you couldn't do, I think. They were pretty fair about things.

Were you ever made aware of health and safety issues?

Yes, they had a training officer and I worked for him for a while, so he was involved in safety and training. So whichever department you were in, anybody new, you were given training, and they refreshed the training on a regular basis so that everybody was up to date with what was required by the Government – ROSPA was one of them: prevention of accidents thing. They were all very conscientious in that respect.

Did you have to be particularly aware as you walked through the place?

Yes, there were certain places I couldn't go. I would be sent to various departments to deliver papers, but there were certain places I couldn't go – like upstairs on the 'Mezz' floor, the mezzanine floor. It was high up at the back of the factory where they could reach the tops of the furnaces. I wasn't allowed up there, there were certain restricted areas. You'd got to keep your eyes open. There were people moving around carrying things, taking stacker trucks around, things like that. So you had to watch what you were doing. "To be aware", I think, is the phrase.

How was the factory heated how it was lit – was it natural light?

No, it wasn't a natural light. They had windows high up, but it was lit by strip lighting.

Round about the furnaces on the 'mezz' floor that was quite hot. I worked in the surgery as well for a while, with the sister who got me the application form, and I can remember people coming in for salt tablets and things because they were working in jobs where they sweated a lot and they had to replace the liquid. There were a few places like that.

[25']

Were there facilities toilets/ changing rooms and washing?

Yes, I don't know that I ever saw them because they were in a separate part of the factory. Changing rooms: if you worked with dangerous chemicals and you got to be aware of it and take the necessary clothing off - I presume they kept their own clothing there and changed when they got to work and when they left. And they had a lead glass facility, and that was very heavily protected with very thick doors to stop the radiation getting out.

The majority of people who worked in those departments were men, I don't think any women actually worked up there, in those departments, but I'm sure they would have been the same (*facilities, like the men*).

Did they play music when you were working?

No. That's a modern thing, isn't it?

Were you allowed to chat while working?

Yes, we chatted amongst ourselves. Talked about work, asked questions, but all sorts of things, general chit chat.

Was the factory a noisy place?

It was quite noisy, yes, but not so that you couldn't hear yourself. The more noisy departments were further away. I walked down one side of the main factory and there were offices on my right hand side and the rest of the factory was on the left and the departments that were next to where you walked were quieter; the rest of them were further away on the left. It was sort of an L shape, it was a big square building, but there were offices around the outside with windows, but the internal didn't have windows into the factory and the noisy bits were far away from where we were.

Were you allowed to smoke while working?

I think we were. I don't smoke, but I'm sure that I can remember my boss smoking, and the sales reps.

Allowed on the factory floor?

Probably not, in fact, I'm sure it wouldn't have been, there were too many dangerous things in different places. Even in the packing department there was too much paper and cardboard, it wouldn't have been a good idea really.

Have you suffered any long term effects on your health from working in the factory?

No, none. I had asthma before I went there and still had it when I came out, but it didn't make it any worse.

As women, how did you treat male workers as they came through your offices, whether they were teased or harassed?

No, I don't think so. The sales reps, they were all Mr So and So, they were a lot more formal then, but your immediate colleagues you called by their Christian names, there wasn't any difference really. It frightened me to death – I was a very well brought up young lady, I'd been to a girl's school and men frightened me to death. When I first started work there, the thought of walking down the factory floor frightened me no end, it was really strange. I used to put mental blinkers on and just walk and get from A to B.

And was there any teasing of you?

Yes, you'd get wolf whistles, and they'd say, 'Oh, look at her, she's a posh one, she doesn't want to talk to you'. You soon settle down to it, that was just to start off with, and I was very shy.

When you got married, your husband, was he supportive of you working?

Oh, yes.

And the wages you brought in?

We couldn't have afforded it otherwise. We opened a joint bank account when we got married and just carried on from there. Spent what we had to and saved the rest, and hoped to find a place to live.

[30']

7. Hours / Holidays

How many days did you work per week?

Five - Monday to Friday.

How many hours a day?

I started work at twenty to nine in the morning. I think we had about three quarters of an hour for lunch, and I finished at half past four. So I presume it was about an eight hour day, I hadn't really thought about it much. Yes, about seven and a half, eight hours.

You didn't work shifts?

No.

Did you have to clock in?

No. The shop floor did, but we didn't.

Did you do any overtime?

No, I didn't do overtime.

During your day would you have had breaks?

Yes, we had a morning and an afternoon break, in addition to the lunch hour.

Did you go anywhere?

Yes, there was a staff canteen, everybody went there (*for breaks*).

What did workers do during these breaks?

They had a cup of tea, cigarette, chat. We had music in the lunch hours – piped music.

In the canteen, did you have to pay for your meals there?

Yes,

What kind of food did the canteen provide?

It was very good food, we had a good cook there. Through all the time I was there he worked there and he had good staff. So we ate very well really, very imaginative dishes. We were his captive audience, I think we were his guinea pigs.

[The bird in the background is a thrush, wanting to be fed - they usually gave it some sultanas.]

Did you go there or did you bring your own snack to work?

No. I think most people ate there. I don't remember taking a packed meal at all.

So it was affordable?

Yes.

Did you have any annual holidays?

We were allowed two weeks holiday a year, probably more actually, but I know you could have two weeks off in a lump. We probably had about five weeks annual holiday, but you could save several days each year (I can't remember how many) which you could carry forward to the next year and then if it was convenient to the department, obviously, you could have extra time off. It was called banking them.

Talking about bank, were you allowed the Bank holidays?

Yes, in the offices anyway. I don't know what the shop floor facilities were.

Where did you go on holiday? Did other workers go to the same place?

No, it wasn't like a Wakes Week or anything like that. John and I went on holiday, but never abroad, couldn't afford that. We used to go and see his sister who lived down in Wiltshire. We went camping, things like that. We couldn't afford hotels.

Did the factory close down? Did everybody go on holiday at the same time?

No, it didn't, it had to be a continuous process. You had to have staff there all the time. You couldn't let the furnaces go out. The glass making facilities – otherwise it was a very complicated job to restart everything.

Were you allowed days off for personal reasons a funeral or...?

Yes, I did have a couple of times like that. And if you'd run out of holidays - you could use your holidays, but if you'd run out of holidays you got it without pay. You had to negotiate with your boss for that; a couple of times I did. They were pretty good about it, actually.

[34' 30'']

8. Travel to work

How did you get to work?

I used to get a lift, with one of the managers, actually. I lived in Prestatyn, so there wasn't a direct bus route. If you lived in St Asaph you could get a bus up to the factory. I had to rely on lifts, with one of the managers or another member of staff who lived in Prestatyn. That was my main way of getting to work.

That wasn't too far was it?

No, about five or six miles.

Did other people travel quite far to work?

It was quite a big catchment's area, some people came from Abergele. My husband John, he lived in Ruthin, but he did move to digs in St Asaph. If he was at home with his parents he would have to get a lift, there were various people from that end of the valley.

What time did you have to leave home to get to work?

Probably about eight o'clock, ten past eight, something like that, to meet my lift somewhere in Prestatyn. By the time you get to work you still have to get into the office block and put your coat and things away in the cloakroom and get to work. It took about ten minutes, once you actually got to the car park at Pilks.

[36' 30'']

9. Social Life

And the social life, the social activities, were they organised by the workers?

Yes, they had a recreational officer, I think the Personnel Officer at the time was involved in that as well, but they had the recreational club (Rec club) – they had someone who dealt with the day to day running of that.

What do you mean by recreational club?

Well, they had a pavilion and a cricket field right next to the factory, and football facilities. It was a staff club, I presume set up by the company; never really thought about it much. I only had dealings with the tennis section and the cricket, but it was all run by the staff.

The tennis was in Prestatyn?

I played in Prestatyn, yes, the facilities were good in Prestatyn. (No tennis courts near the factory.)

They didn't have any formal... they had a sports field but they didn't have anything like a tennis court, just the cricket. And we had a very dedicated ground's man who kept it absolutely beautiful.

It was one of the last things to go wasn't it?

It was, such a shame, made me want to cry – it was like a field in the end, such a wreck. And the pavilion fell to pieces as well, it was awful. And they offered it to St Asaph cricket club and they didn't want it, and it was a beautiful pitch.

Were there any Christmas dances? Children's Christmas party?

They used to have a Christmas party for the children, yes. Once we had our little boy, he went, and obviously they had them before that. As far as I can remember, individual sections of the Rec Club used to have their own gatherings, social gatherings throughout the year. I presume they must have had a grand one. They used to have a Pilkington's Dance at

Christmas, but that was just a general one, it wasn't connected to the Rec Club or anything – it was just 'everybody', or anybody who wanted to go.

Where did they hold that?

The ones I remember they had at the Nova in Prestatyn, a couple of them. I presume we must have gone somewhere else for some of them. I think we had one of them at the Morville in Rhyl or the Westminster, I'm sure they went there as well, and the Grange, all the local hotels.

And we used to have an end of season thing for the various sports, prize-givings, because they all played other teams, not just within the factory, they played other companies and local teams. So you had presentation evenings and that was usually in one of the hotels as well.

Would there have been any other social evenings that people would meet up?

I don't remember any.

Were there any beauty contests, would there have been a Miss Pilkingtons?

Yes, we did have a Miss Pilkington thing, but that was in conjunction with the Christmas dance. They used to award the prizes then.

And how did they choose her?

I have no idea. Anyone who wanted to enter, I suppose. I can't remember them having a parade of everybody on the stage or anything like that, but I know there were a few girls who had the honour. Not me!

Did workers go on trips or outings together?

Yes, we did, within the confines of the Rec Club. The Cricket Club used to play other branches of Pilkington's. We used to go to St Helen's, we went to Liverpool, and we went to Birmingham, to play against their factory teams. Yes, we had a good few trips out. I don't know what John did, but I used to go along with the cricket one. I don't think we did with the tennis - that was all local.

Were there any works band or choir?

No.

And what about any events- entertainment?

I don't remember any.

The people who attended these events, would they have been mainly workers, or did management join in?

Oh yes, management came as well, yes. Nearly all of the staff used to come -management and underlings.

Is there any one event which you remember in particular from your time, say a visit by a famous person or anything like that?

The boss of the company used to turn up on occasion, Sir Alistair Pilkington or Lord and Lady Pilkington, whoever they were, the owners. I can remember them coming a couple of times, but not that everyone was lined up to meet and greet they would just talk to the management I think. One of them used to turn up in a pale blue Mercedes sports car, very flash! We had Margaret Thatcher at one time, my husband had a nice conversation with her.

[42' 30'']

10. Did you enjoy working at the factory?

Yes, I did. It was quite a pleasant place to start one's working life. I never thought about leaving to go and work anywhere else, I was quite content to stay there, it was a pleasant environment.

Did you get job satisfaction or was it the social interaction?

I think it was a mixture of the two, yes. Job satisfaction and the social life, because we had quite a hectic one.

When did you decide to leave?

I got pregnant and in that day and age, you had no choice, if you were expecting a baby, you left when you were six months. And that was it.

You had to finish work?

Oh, yes. If you became pregnant you left work. So I presume, what you were asking in the other questions, the women who worked on the shop floor would have had older children, they would have already had children when they went to work there, who were independent enough. But if you were expecting a baby, then you were expected to leave work and stay at home.

How did you feel about that?

I didn't mind, it was one of those things, it was expected and I didn't think about anything different.

Were you given a farewell do?

Yes, we went out to the pub for lunch - there were no rules then about not drinking alcohol when you were pregnant you understand. They presented me with this pram and I went home.

For how long did you work in the factory?

I worked there for seven years, 'sixty four to 'seventy one.

Did you work afterwards?

Not straight away, no, not until my children were older. My son was in top class at primary and his sister a couple of years behind; until then, no. I was a stay-at-home-mum.

[45']

What work did you do afterwards?

We were living here in Rhuddlan by then, when my children were in higher classes in primary school, I worked at a lot of little part-time jobs. I worked as a dinner-lady. I never went back to office work, I discovered there were other things I could do, that I didn't have to work in an office. It was all I'd ever done, so I always (when I applied for jobs) thought along those lines. But I worked as a dinner-lady for three years at the local primary school. I worked in the garage in Rhuddlan as an assistant in the shop and dispensing petrol at the pump. And when Sainsbury's opened in Rhyl, I got a job there and I worked in the petrol station there for a while because I knew the system - I was trained on the same system that they had. I worked for Sainsbury's for ten years. I did lots of other part time jobs before that. I painted pottery cottages; I rolled Christmas paper, all very short term all these things. Sainsbury's was my main one after that, I thoroughly enjoyed it. I should have done it sooner.

Are you in touch with any of your former workmates?

Yes, we have a couple of particular friends. One pair lives in Anglesey and we see them regularly but you bump into them all over the place, when you're out shopping we meet someone John used to work with, or I used to work with. They all live fairly locally, so you're bound to see them sooner or later.

Looking back now – how do you feel about the time you spent working in the factory?

I think I see it with affection. It was interesting; it was my working life, what I did at the time. I never thought twice about it. It was a job. I didn't do it as a career if you like, there's a difference between a job and a career – and I never had one of those. And I was quite glad to leave work. To be at home with your children was fine with me; I didn't want to have to go out to work until I felt like it. And when I did start to work again, I felt the time was right then. But working at Pilkington's was interesting and I made some good friends and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Duration : 50 minutes